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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you encountered any problems entering or exiting the CNMI since federal authorities took over immigration functions at the airport?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Overhaul
A jubilant President Barack Obama signs a massive, nearly $1 trillion health care overhaul.

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Going Ape
Baboons, it seems, prefer pinot noir. They also like a nice chardonnay.

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Oral History
Many people think of interviewing their loved ones. Doing it is another matter.

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Froilan confident austerity measure will pass today. PAGE 5

CNMI in talks with ICE, US Marshals on use of prison

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Time ticks for the CNMI and the U.S. Marshal Service to reach an agreement on the continued use of the Susupe prison for federal detainees before the existing deal expires on April 1, 2010, even as the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement also tries to strike a deal with the local government for the use of the jail for its own detainees.

Under the existing Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Department of Corrections and the U.S. Marshals Service that came into effect on April 1,

See NMI on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

KICK BUTTS
Kagman High School students join hundreds of others in a parade from the San Antonio Elementary School to Hopwood Junior High School yesterday afternoon, to raise awareness about the ill effects of tobacco use and promote a tobacco-free life. The 5th Annual Kick Butts Day in the CNMI wrapped up with live entertainment and interactive exhibits.

See story and more photos on Page 6.

PSS principals get Blackberry phones

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System issued Blackberry phones to all principals and program managers last month, reportedly as part of goals to bring public schools closer to the system's technology goals.

Saipan Tribune learned that a total of 50 Blackberry phones were purchased using federal funds—33 units of Blackberry Storm, six Blackberry 8830 model, and 11 units of Blackberry 8900 model—for a total cost

See PSS on Page 4

Fitial's masseuse gets time-served sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Qingmei Cheng, the controversial 28-year-old masseuse of Gov. Benigno Fitial, entered a guilty plea yesterday and was sentenced to time already served in jail.

Cheng agreed to plead guilty to one count of aiding and abetting a person to illegally enter Guam in exchange for the lighter sentence.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood accepted the prosecution's recommendation to impose the 36-day jail term that Cheng had already served after being arrested.

Cheng was also placed on one year of

See MASSEUSE on Page 4

Lawyer Arriola pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lawyer Joseph Aldan Arriola pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday to stealing over $600,000 from an estate's account.

The 42-year-old Arriola pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of wire fraud as part of a plea agreement

See ARRIOLA on Page 4

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Local

Covenant Party reflects on Covenant Day; presents Camacho

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hundreds of Covenant Party officials and guests marked yesterday's 34th anniversary of President Gerald Ford's enactment of the "Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America," but Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said some of the expected benefits are not coming the CNMI's way.

Fitial, who founded the Covenant Party, also presented the party's official candidate for CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives: Former House Floor Leader Joseph James N. Camacho.

The governor said the Covenant has been benefiting CNMI people "but not in a way that we wanted it."

He said the CNMI used local control of labor and immigration to bring in foreign investment to help grow the local economy, including the establishment of the garment industry and just recently, the education industry.

"Now with this federalization project, those investment opportunities, new industries opening up, the chances of them to continue, are very minimal. That really takes a drain on our local economy and our resources. That's why we went from $148 million to $137 million [budget]," Fitial told reporters at the Garapan Fishing Base where the Covenant Day anniversary celebration were held.

The governor, who sued the U.S. government over federalization, said he is open to discussions on revisiting the Covenant

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, and lawyer Viola Alepuyo present the Covenant Party's candidate for CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, Joseph James N. Camacho, right, during the Covenant Party's annual membership meeting coinciding with the 34th anniversary of the signing of the Covenant, at the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday.

34 years after its enactment.

The Covenant defines the unique relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States, recognizing U.S. sovereignty but limiting, in some respects, applicability of federal law. Some 80 percent of residents voted for the Covenant.

Former Rep. Daniel Quitugua echoed the governor's sentiments, but added that he is not looking for "dole outs."

"When the people approved the Covenant, they were expecting that the standard of living here will be comparable to the U.S. mainland. Unfortunately, some 30 years later, that remains to be seen," he said.

He also said that the immigration fees charged by the federal government since November 2008 should be given to the CNMI.

"In my opinion, the CNMI is entitled to those fees," he added.

Maria Islam, 55, of Koblerville, and her relative from Garapan, said the Covenant, they believe, is supposed to protect the rights of indigenous people—the Chamorros and the Carolinians.

"It's not happening that way. It's hard for us to look for jobs. Many of the jobs here are given to foreign workers," Islam said.

Fitial said he named his political party after the Covenant "because I strongly believe that there are some basic tools that the Covenant provided for us to use so that we can help develop our economy but a lot of those good tools have not been grasped because of federalization."

He said in his personal view, the Covenant that is supposed to provide assistance "has turned to be more of a punishment," referring to federalization which began on Nov. 28, 2009.

Fitial also cited an $800,000 grant he requested from the Office of Insular Affairs for geothermal testing.

"We need money to drill the geothermal project. Instead of giving me the $800,000 that I requested, they gave the military $1 million to do geothermal testing in Guam," the governor said.

He added that an investor from the U.S. mainland will be coming to the CNMI in April for a geothermal project, but said he could not disclose the identity of the investor at this time.

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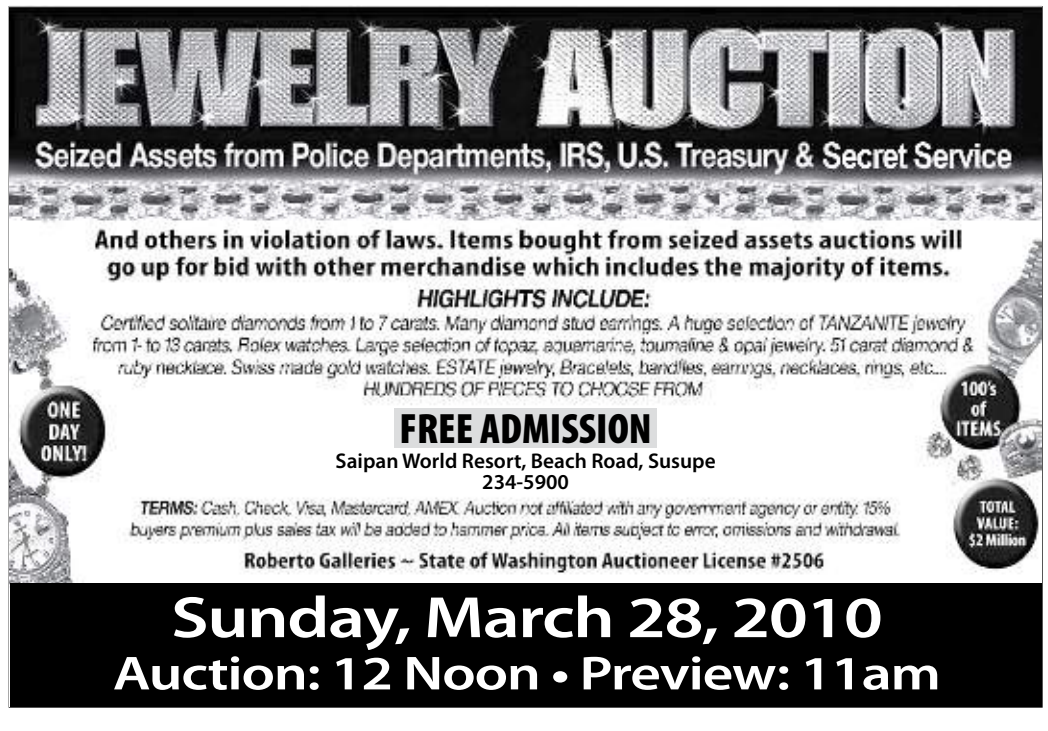
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'Continue paying Cabrera her newly adjusted rate'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chair Janet H. King, along with two senior college officials, have expressed full support to continue paying interim president Lorraine Cabrera her salary adjustment despite the lack of a formal board action.

King, human resource specialist Bobby Hunter, and chief financial and administrative officer Henry Hofschneider said the salary adjustment is in consideration of the additional tasks Cabrera has been performing since taking over from suspended president Dr. Carmen Fernandez two months ago.

In an interview with the three officials on Tuesday, King said it is the intention of the board to meet and vote on Cabrera's salary adjustment that, she said, has the majority support of board members.

She said putting the proposal to a vote among board members would just be a "formality."

King said the personnel committee recommendation to bump up Cabrera's pay rate went through reviews for both legal sufficiency and funds availability.

The final step—for board members to vote and approve the pay hike—has yet to happen. King said the board has scheduled a meeting for this in April.

Cabrera used to be paid $47,000 per annum as director of the Adult Basic Education program. Her salary was then adjusted to $80,000 to reflect her new assignment as interim college president.

Cabrera has already been getting her salary adjustment since the payroll period of Jan. 29 to Feb. 26. She got $3,677 retroactive to Jan. 12, 2010.

Regent Elaine Orilla had expressed surprise upon learning this, saying the matter has not reached the full board for action.

King said that she was also not aware of the release of the payment until it was reported in the *Saipan Tribune*.

King admitted, though, that she issued a memorandum on Feb. 22 to Hofscheneider asking him to process Cabrera's personnel action to reflect the additional compensation, effective Jan. 12. The personnel action was signed three days later on Feb. 25.

"There's no behind-the-scene intention here…it's just that the meeting [for the purpose of voting on the salary adjustment] hasn't occurred yet," King explained, believing that what happened was that the process simply got "fast-tracked."

Hofschneider, for his part, told *Saipan Tribune* that no one pressured him to release the payment.

"I just took action based on the memo from the chairwoman," he said.

No existing policy

Although the college has an existing policy governing employees in acting capacities, NMC has no policy on interim presidents, according to HR specialist Hunter.

The existing policy states that individuals in acting capacities are entitled to compensation after 90 days of serving the post.

Like Hofschneider, Hunter believes no specific policy is being violated by adjusting the salary of the interim president.

"On matters where there is no policy…then the board must act by a majority vote," said King.

When asked if there is a possibility the proposal may be defeated during actual voting next month, King said the board will then decide on how to address the issue about the additional compensation that has already been given the interim president.

For his part, Hofschneider said it makes sense to continue paying Cabrera the extra compensation and then stop it if the board decides to disapprove it.

"Even if the board disagrees to give her that compensation, she would have to be compensated with all the headaches and extra time she put in. I've seen her working from morning to evening…so I think the compensation for that period of time would be justified with the additional work she performed," Hofschneider added.

King said a proposal from a committee is already a strong recommendation for full board action.

OIA's Babauta to tour Saipan, Tinian facilities

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta will be announcing grant funding for the Tinian Health Center as part of his Saipan and Tinian tours today and tomorrow.

Babauta, who was expected to arrive last night, will be touring the Southern High School's alternative/renewable energy project with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, this morning, according to the Department of the Interior.

This afternoon, Babauta will be touring the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power plant.

Tomorrow morning, Babauta will visit the Tinian Health Center and make a formal announcement of a grant for the facility.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration has yet to know the grant amount.

Groups of nonresident workers also expressed willingness to meet with Babauta, who is also expected to meet with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

This is Babauta's second visit to the CNMI since the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment last year. He was here in January to attend Fitial's second inauguration, and tour Office of Insular Affairs-funded projects like the Commonwealth Health Center's dialysis center.

Prior to visiting Saipan, Babauta was in Guam early this week to accompany President Barack's Obama's chief environmental adviser, Nancy Sutley.

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Cold storage facilities now eligible for USDA loan program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program has been amended to allow producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables, according to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack yesterday.

This program is part of USDA's Know Your Farm, Know Your Food initiative and uses discretionary authority provided by the 2008 Farm Bill authorizing the eligibility of cold storage facilities for fruits and vegetables.

"Expand the Farm Storage Facility Loan program will provide our nation's fruit and vegetable producers with new storage and marketing opportunities," Vilsack said. "On-farm storage may cost a lot to build, but it can help farmers to maximize profits. USDA's program will help these producers to finance the purchase, construction, or refurbishment of these important farm storage facilities."

USDA's Know Your Farm, Know Your Food initiative emphasizes the need for a fundamental and critical reconnection between producers and consumers. The effort builds on the 2008 Farm Bill, which provides for increases and flexibility for USDA programs in an effort to revitalize rural economies through the promotion local food systems. Aimed at strengthening the connection between farmers and consumers, the initiative also support local and regional food systems, to increase economic opportunities for local farmers and expand access to healthy food for Americans.

To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

■ New structures suitable for a cold facility;

■ New walk-in prefabricated permanently installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;

■ New permanently affixed cooling, circulating, and monitoring equipment;

■ Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility; and must be

■ Additional or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable handling and cooling equipment, used or pre-owned structures not suitable for a fresh fruits and vegetables' cold storage facility.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is $50,000 per loan. One partial disbursement of up to half the anticipated total cost is available when that portion of the structure has been completed. The final disbursement will be made when the entire structure has been completed and inspected by a USDA representative. All Farm Storage Facility loans require a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

Loans applications should be submitted to the Administrative FSA county office that maintains the records of the farm or farms to which the application applies. If the commodities are produced on land that does not have farm records established, the applications must be submitted to the FSA county office that services the county where the facility will be located.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs contact the local FSA county office or visit http://www.fsa.usda.gov. ***(USDA)***

Guam reservists to deploy to Afghanistan

Santa Rita, Guam—Reservists with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18, Detachment 0918 will leave Guam tomorrow, March 26, for a year-long deployment in support of the global war on terrorism.

These sailors are the first unit attached to Navy Operational Support Center Guam to deploy to Afghanistan. They are also the first NMCB group consisting primarily of reservists from Guam.

The detachment is composed of 45 members, 23 of whom will be on a deployment. Sailors will report to training in Gulfport, Miss., before beginning their mission.

The reservists are scheduled to depart from A.B. Won Pat Guam International Air Terminal at 6:40am and 10:30am, March 26.

NMCBs provide responsive military construction support to Navy, Marine Corps and other forces in military operations, construct base facilities and conduct defensive operations. In addition to standard wood, steel, masonry and concrete construction, NMCBs also perform specialized construction such as water-well drilling and battle damage repair. They are able to work and defend themselves at construction sites outside of their base camp and convoy through unsecured areas. In times of emergency or disaster, NMCBs conduct disaster control and recovery operations. ***(USN)***

ARRIOLA

From Page 1

with the U.S. government.

Arriola admitted that he made unauthorized removal of certain funds from the estate of Rita Kaipat in violation of the Superior Court order.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood accepted Arriola's guilty plea and set the sentencing for June 29, 2010.

She directed the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a pre-sentencing report by May 5, 2010.

Arriola was hired as attorney for the Kaipat estate's then administrator Luis Pelisamen. Arriola and Pelisamen set up an account in the Bank of Hawaii where they deposited the estate's $1.37 million.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler, counsel for the U.S. government, told the court that Arriola and Pelisaman helped themselves to the money by issuing several checks to themselves.

Then Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama kicked out Pelisamen and Arriola from the Kaipat estate after finding out that some of the estate's money was missing.

Arriola and Pelisamen were subsequently indicted in federal court for stealing $625,575 from the estate's account.

Arriola fled to the Philippines, while Pelisamen was arrested and subsequently found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison. Pelisamen was also ordered to pay $625,775 in restitution to the estate.

Philippine authorities arrested Arriola on June 16, 2009, and detained him for five months.

On Nov. 25, 2009, the Philippine government deported Arriola to Saipan. The lawyer has been in federal custody since then after being denied bail.

MASSEUSE

From Page 1

supervised release and was ordered to pay a $10 fine.

The judge required Cheng to meet with the U.S. Probation Office to coordinate with Immigration regarding her immigration status prior to the end of her probationary period.

"Make sure you follow the law or you may be removed from the CNMI," the judge told Cheng.

Cheng's labor permit expired on March 26, 2010. She has an umbrella permit. The expiration of her labor permit led to a lengthy discussion between Cheng's counsel, Joseph Horey, Schuler, and the judge about federal immigration transition and umbrella permit issues.

Tydingco-Gatewood granted assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler's motion to dismiss the original indictment that charged Cheng with 22 counts of attempting to bring aliens to the U.S.

Citing Cheng's cooperation with the U.S. government, Schuler recommended a sentence of time served and one year probation.

Schuler cited Cheng's cooperation in the investigation related to her unauthorized release from the Department of Corrections while under federal detention, at the request of Fitial.

Horey also stated that his client was not the originator of the attempt to unlawfully enter Guam. Horey said that Cheng did not even intend to enter Guam.

Cheng, through an interpreter, apologized to the judge, saying that she broke the law.

"I've learned my lesson," said Cheng, who stated that she only tried to help a friend by acting as an interpreter.

Schuler said that Cheng acted as the interpreter when an immigration agent, posing as a boat captain, met with the 23 Chinese nationals who were allegedly planning to sneak into Guam.

Cheng was among 24 Chinese nationals arrested last Jan. 5 by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for reportedly trying to unlawfully enter Guam on a boat.

Cheng was then indicted with 22 counts of attempting to bring aliens to the U.S.

PSS

From Page 1

of $9,940.

PSS also enrolled the mobile phones in a two-year plan that will cost $2,965 per month, or over $71,000 under the two-year plan.

The monthly fee does not include additional charges that may apply such as long distance, roaming, data features and federally mandated fees such as the universal service fee.

The phone units were distributed during a recent principals' meeting.

Saipan Tribune learned that the units would be used in conjunction with the Power Walkthrough Web Application that PSS recently purchased. This is a classroom observation software that requires a wireless handheld device to transfer data collected during classroom observations to an https secure site using encryption.

PSS said these new technologies are critical to providing instructional leaders with resources that "will increase effective instructional strategies and student engagement."

For Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas, providing the modern technology to school leaders is a sound decision as it will boost efforts to achieve PSS goals of quality and better teaching techniques.

Barcinas said it's high time for Commonwealth educational leaders to work toward a competitive 21st century.

For communication purposes, Blackberries provided principals and program managers easy access to information, thus bringing some cost savings to the system, according to Barcinas.

Every year, PSS buys modern technologies for student learning such as computers, laptops, and other equipment. Blackberries, Barcinas said, work in conjunction with these equipment.

To avoid potential abuses, he said each principal and program manager is allocated only 60 minutes under the plan; any minutes beyond the limit will be shouldered by individual user.

Prior to the issuance of the units, school leaders were required to attend a special workshop on the proper use of the equipment for school instructions. The training was held at Kagman High School, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Through the use of modern technology, Barcinas said most schools now operate under a paperless system.

"The units are very useful and designed for the specific purpose of advancing the instructional and leadership techniques for our students," he added.

NMI

From Page 1

2007, the local prison complex is paid $77 per detainee per day.

CNMI acting Corrections Commissioner Ramon "Ray" C. Mafnas, who is also senior policy adviser to the governor, said the rate remains fixed for 36 months from the effective date of the agreement.

Under the agreement, the CNMI may request for a rate adjustment after 36 months. It is now negotiating a higher rate.

Mafnas said the cost of providing the same services has gone up.

Medical services, including emergency medical care outside the facility, guard and transportation services are not included.

The U.S. Marshals Service is billed for guard and transportation services, Mafnas said.

He said the agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. Marshals Service may be terminated by either party with no less than 120 days written notice of intent to terminate.

$84 and $105

Unlike the U.S. Marshals Service, the ICE is negotiating with the CNMI government on the use of the local prison facility for the first time.

"The CNMI is optimistic that the ongoing negotiations with ICE will yield positive results," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune*.

Negotiations between ICE and the CNMI began on Oct. 13, 2009, just before the federal government took control of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial designated Mafnas last year to take the lead in negotiating the Inter-Governmental Service Agreement between the CNMI and ICE.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham is also working closely with Mafnas on the negotiation.

Mafnas said the rate proposals endorsed in principle and offered by the CNMI to ICE are:

■ $84 per detainee per day with a dedicated housing unit with utilities only.

■ $105 per detainee per day with a dedicated housing unit with utilities and services included, except for medical care and services outside the facility.

ICE, one of the component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is mum on the details of the negotiations.

Jerald Neveleff, deputy assistant director for the Office of Acquisition Management of the Detention Management Division, is leading the negotiations on behalf of ICE. He forwarded the *Saipan Tribune*'s request for information to the ICE Office of Public Affairs.

Lori K. Haley, spokeswoman for ICE, said the negotiations between ICE and the CNMI are ongoing, "therefore we are unable to comment at this time."

Buckingham and Neveleff met in Washington, D.C. early this month.

Fitial said the federal agencies want a lower rate than what the CNMI is offering. He said the CNMI is firm on the rates it is offering.

Mafnas said he is confident the CNMI Department of Corrections is prepared to provide the necessary services expected from the CNMI-ICE agreement when it is eventually executed and implemented.

The existing agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. Marshals Service has no bearing or effect on the ongoing negotiations between the CNMI and ICE. The same is true with the CNMI-U.S. Marshals Service rate adjustment negotiations.

The CNMI built the $20.9-million prison complex in Susupe under a consent decree signed with the U.S. Department of Justice after DOJ saw the deplorable conditions of the old prison.

Construction began in 2002. The initial cost was only about $17 million but due to change orders, as well as procurement protests and counter protests, the project cost ballooned to $20.9 million. It opened only in February 2008.

Froilan confident austerity measure will pass today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has urged lawmakers to pass the revised austerity bill which the House Ways and Means Committee projects to reduce government cost by $4.55 million for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), at the same time, expressed confidence yesterday that Rep. Ramon Basa's House Bill 17-45 will have enough votes to pass in today's session.

The 20-member House has seven Covenant Party members but the four independents have aligned themselves with this party, making it the majority bloc. There are also nine Republicans at the House.

But Tenorio said there are Republicans who they expect to support the bill.

"We are confident to have 10 to 13 votes," he said.

Basa's original austerity bill was effectively killed when the committee report recommending its passage was filed. At the time, parents and educators from Rota, Tinian and Saipan trooped to the House session and urged lawmakers not to pass the bill.

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) remains opposed to the austerity bill, saying there are other means to cut government costs without further hurting employees' pockets.

He earlier called on Fitial to further reduce the budget allocation for the remainder of FY 2010, from 7.25 percent to 12.5 percent, instead of cutting government work hours from 80 to 70 per pay period to address the budget crisis.

But the Fitial administration is keen on reducing work hours by one hour every day as Basa's bill proposes.

Under the austerity bill, the regular eight-hour government workday, from 7:30am to 4:30 pm, will be reduced to seven hours, or from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

This means government work hours will become 70 hours per pay period across-the-board, from the regular 80 hours.

GOLDEN BOY

Cloency Zuriel Ycoy Chua won the gold in the recent 2010 Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam. This 12-year old Saipan boy and a piano student at Keynotes School of Music made it to the magic three at the final adjudication and the results showed that he bested the two other winners. Three out of the four judges gave Zuriel the gold verdict. One adjudicator described Zuriel's playing as "sensitive and accomplished." Zuriel played *Fantasie Impromptu* by Chopin and Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. Zuriel, accompanied by Keynotes School of Music director Mila Merjilla, attended the awarding ceremony on March 20, 2009, at the Hyatt Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Man in mail fraud case gets 4-month term

The federal court imposed yesterday a four-month prison term on a man who defrauded a Chinese national by promising to bring his daughter from the Fujian Province in China to Saipan in exchange for money.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood allowed Jesse Mafnas Babauta to serve the prison term during weekends.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Babauta to pay $9,011 in restitution to the victim.

After completing his sentence, Babauta will be placed on three years of supervised release.

The judge waived the fine.

Babauta pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud on Nov. 26.

Count one of the indictment stated that on Aug. 25, 2008 and continuing to Oct. 11, 2008, Babauta devised a scheme to defraud Zhi Yuan Li of his money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

The prosecution said Babauta defrauded Li by promising to get his daughter from Fujian Province in exchange for payment.

Persons from the Fujian Province cannot lawfully enter the CNMI without advance written permission from the CNMI Office of the Attorney General. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Immigration judge finds couple, man removable

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Los Angeles federal immigration judge Philip L. DiMarzio yesterday found a Chinese couple and another Chinese man removable from the CNMI.

DiMarzio ruled in separate hearings that the removability of Jian Guo Zhang, his wife Zhen Xiu Huang, and Jiao He has been established, as charged by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The three appeared without counsel, but the judge continued the hearing as they have already been ordered in the last hearing to find lawyers.

DiMarzio, however, allowed Zhang to voluntarily depart the CNMI on or before July 22, 2010, at his own expense.

Zhang's wife, Huang, pleaded with the court, however, that she wants at least two more years before going back to China because no one will take care of her two young grandchildren on Saipan.

DiMarzio said he sympathizes with the 59-year-old Huang, but that he must enforce the law.

After a brief talk with her husband, Huang told the court that she will voluntarily depart.

In He's case, the respondent said he wants to be brought to Canada where he has relatives.

DiMarzio denied the request upon learning that He has no documents that would allow him to legally stay in Canada.

When asked why he does not want to return to China, the 30-year-old He explained that he borrowed a large amount of money from a gang in order to come to Saipan in July 2009.

The respondent said he is scared to go back to China because he might be put in jail. He said he has a pending criminal case in the Superior Court for "harming."

The judge gave He a form—a claim of withholding of removal—to be filled up with the assistance of a lawyer or anybody.

He was ordered to return to court on May 18, 2010, at 2:30pm.

DiMarzio told He that if he does not return on May 19, he will be removed from the U.S.

Seventeen other removal cases were set for hearing yesterday. Most of the cases were continued.

There are other cases set for hearing today, Thursday.

Senior attorney Arlene Dorsman appeared for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

DiMarzio is the third federal immigration judge to conduct immigration hearings on Saipan since the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on March 25, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before March 25.

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† As of 03/01/10, the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for Priority 2 is 0.02% and the APY for Priority 3 is 0.12%. The rate may change after the account is opened. The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain the duffle bag is $100 for Priority 1 and 2, and $1,000 for Priority 3. Fees could reduce the earnings on the account. You will receive the free duffle bag as a gift when you open or convert to a new Priority Banking personal checking account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires on 03/31/10, or when supplies are exhausted. Limit of one duffle bag per customer or account.

Children in their new Kick Butts T-shirts pose as they wait for the next dance group to take the stage.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Nine schools join Kick Butts Day celebration

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of students from nine schools on island joined in the festive celebration of the 5th Annual Kick Butts Day yesterday—an event intended to combat youth tobacco use in the Commonwealth.

An estimated 500-plus schoolchildren, along with parents and community members, were seen enjoying the chants during a parade that started at San Antonio basketball court through the Hopwood Junior campus at 2pm yesterday.

The festivity also featured numerous sponsor booths that were handing out informative brochures for their causes, including the Department of Public Health, Community Guidance Center, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, Ayuda Network, Department of Public Safety, Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program, Northern Marianas College-CREES, Pacific Wellness Center, Marianas Health Services, and Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

According to Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas, over a hundred students from his school participate in the event every year.

He is convinced that special activities catering to the youth-shelp improve the health data on island.

"This is a good opportunity for our students to gather and enjoy worthwhile activities together," Barcinas said, adding that yesterday's attendance was proof of the campaign's success with teens.

Groups of students interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* said the annual activity helps them better understand the importance of not smoking.

Although some students admitted trying smoking once or twice, they said the extensive campaign in schools against smoking and chewing betel nut convinced them to stop.

Yesterday's event was organized by the CCA, which is a local cancer support organization for the CNMI. The organization is dedicated to cancer awareness, prevention, and support services in the Commonwealth.

Highlighting the occasion was a dance competition among different grade levels.

In the elementary division, five schools—Kagman, Oleai, San Vicente, Tanapag, and William S. Reyes—competed for the prize.

In the middle school division, participating groups from both Chacha Oceanview Junior High and Hopwood Junior High School received loud applause from spectators.

A Marianas High School dance group and a Kagman High School team vied for the title in the senior division.

Winners of the competition will be notified through their school leaders.

The gathering was also highlighted by intermission numbers.

The event's organizer, Commonwealth Cancer Association, set up booths inside the campus and provided spectators and students with informational materials about the effects of tobacco use.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Grace Christian Academy students pose for the *Saipan Tribune* in yesterday's Kick Butts Day festivities at Hopwood.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas High School students display their banner.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-086

SUBMISSION: APRIL 20, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CONDUCT OF ASTM PHASE I & PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT OF BRONWFIELDS ON SAIPAN FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 18, 2010 AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp**.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **APRIL 06, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M.** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM (Rm. 205). QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER**, AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT raymasga@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **APRIL 09, 2010.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS ***NOT AVAILABLE***; BECAUSE IT'S USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-OVR-085

SUBMISSION: APRIL 20, 2010 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-SUBMISSION ORIENTATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, NAVY HILL, SAIPAN AT **10:00 A.M., APRIL 09, 2010**. PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS ORIENTATION.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT IS PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA).

/s/ **MARGARITA OLOPAI-TAITANO**
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Reports
1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Comments

D. Permits/ Applications/ Rezones: review and decide.
1. None

E. Old Business
1. Proposed amendments to Saipan Zoning Law of 2008
   a. Update on proposed amendments to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law (Presentation; no action)

F. New Business
1. Update on Zoning Enforcement Activities
2. Update on Zoning Permit Processing
3. Update on Board's Public Outreach Program

G. Executive (Closed) Session

H. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair, Zoning Board

Board panel orders tight watch on NMC timekeepers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents' personnel committee has instructed interim president Lorraine Cabrera to enforce a tight watch on all timekeepers in the spirit of fairness and accountability.

The directive was prompted by reports of alleged abuses being committed by some college personnel, including clocking in despite not being present for work.

Orsini

NMC has 25 to 30 timekeepers, most of whom are supervisors and program managers in various departments.

During Monday's meeting, personnel committee chair Andrew Orsini disclosed he has been provided a list of "abusive" timekeepers, indicating that some of those on the list are in supervisory positions.

"The intention here is to uncover these abuses and take corrective actions. In this case, a list of names has been provided to me…so we need to make sure that we stop these abuses," Orsini told committee members, which included regents Elaine Orilla and Paz Younis, along with representatives of various college governance councils.

With the college's precarious fiscal state, Orsini emphasized the need to be accountable for all funding being used at the college.

"The concern here is we're paying people who are not actually at work!" Orsini explained to the members.

Although Regent Orilla acknowledged concern about the issue, she reiterated that this must first be addressed at the management level, which is the president's office.

"Any issue about timekeepers must be brought to the administration first," Orilla said, adding that the way Orsini presented the matter indicate an "overstepping" of boundaries.

Orsini then deferred the matter to Cabrera and asked for more documentation about the college's designated timekeepers.

"Who are these time-keepers? What sort of prudent guidance do they have? These are some of the information that needs to be clarified with the management," Orsini said, adding that if there's a need to strengthen the policy, the committee will make the proper recommendation to eliminate abuses at the college.

Mayor's Office meets with DPL to firm up stray dog shelter site

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office met with the Department of Public Land last Tuesday to discuss potential sites for a kennel shelter that will be used to house impounded dogs.

Vic Pangelinan, secretary of the Mayor's Office, said he should know the decision for the new site by Friday.

The interim site, located in Lower Base, was determined to be too small. Pangelinan said the Department of Public Works designed a small-scale facility, but it needs to be located to a site that is capable of expansion in the future.

"The old site for the facility is not big enough to accommodate all of the potential impounded animals," said Pangelinan.

The problems with stray dogs are common knowledge on Saipan and have been for many years. Last year, the stray dog problem was yet again a hot issue during the elections.

"It's not just the strays that are causing the problem," Pangelinan clarified. "Some are dogs that wear collars and have owners. There are owners who ignore the leash laws and permit them to run wild in the streets."

The mayor's office said it is currently training three dog handlers.

Pangelinan explained that the handlers are being instructed how to safely retrieve animals and take them down to the impound facility where the animals waits about two weeks for its owner to pick it up. The mayor's office is also still determining the most humane methods to euthanize impounded animals that are not retrieved by owners.

On one hand, Pangelinan acknowledged that there is, in fact, a stray dog problem as well as a problem with irresponsible dog owners. He acknowledged that there is a need for an even bigger shelter facility than originally measured. He said that, right now, the mayor's office is training dog catchers, but that they cannot take actions yet because they do not have a place to house the animals once they are picked up off the street.

As for finally deciding on a site for the facility, Pangelinan said, "by Friday we should know."

Bill seeks pay boost for federal employees with bilingual skills

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has signed on with nine other members of Congress as an original cosponsor of a bill that would provide a 5 percent pay boost for federal employees whose official duties require the use of one or more languages besides English.

"Federal employees who use Chamorro or Carolinian or any of the other languages spoken in the Northern Mariana Islands would have their skills rewarded under the provisions of this bilingual pay act," said Sablan.

Sablan

"Of course, it is not just about rewarding workers for their language skills. This bill also acknowledges the importance of being able to communicate in their own language with members of the public seeking help from the federal government.

"And it encourages federal employees to become more effective communicators in the indigenous languages, so they can do their jobs well."

H.R. 4832, the One America, Many Voices Act, is authored by Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA).

The bill sets the differential pay for bilingual or multilingual federal employees to that of employees who are required to be on standby, on night duty, or whose duties are determined to be hazardous. That is 5 percent of basic pay.

The importance of being able to communicate in more than one language is well recognized by local and state governments and private business. Rep Honda, who is chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, of which Sablan is a member, made the case in an opinion piece in *Roll Call*, last week.

"Local officials have long recognized the importance of rewarding bi- and multilingual expertise in providing quality public safety and other public services," Honda wrote. For instance, the city of San Francisco found that one of the most effective ways to recruit bilingual police officers was to offer higher pay to those with language skills.

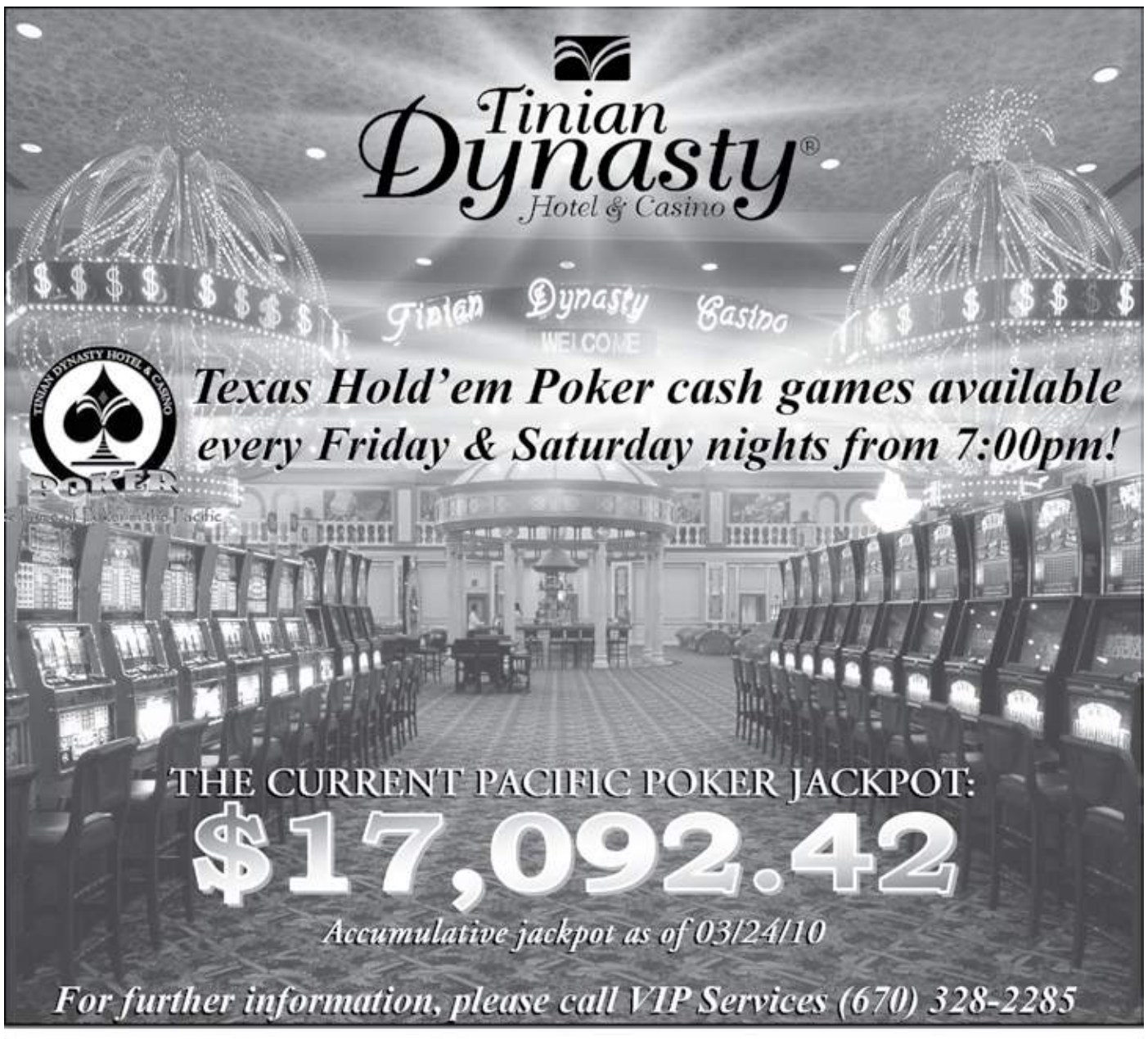
"The private sector, similarly, has been leading the way on bilingual pay since the 1990s, after two major labor agreements—between Verizon Wireless and the Communications Workers of America and between Kaiser Permanente and the Service Employees International Union—established a bilingual pay boost for employees whose jobs require more than one language. It is high time for the federal government to catch up to these developments in local government and the private sector."

Almost 20 percent of American households use a language other than English and that statistic may well rise after the completion of the 2010 U.S. census.

"In the Northern Mariana Islands the percentage of bilingual households is certainly even higher than the national average," says Sablan.

"People should be able to communicate in a language they are comfortable with when dealing with the federal government.

"The bilingual pay act will encourage more federal officials to learn the indigenous languages—and reward those who already are bilingual." ***(PR)***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NMC hires counselor for Student Services

The Northern Marianas College recently hired a new counselor for its Student Support Services Program.

Neda B. Camacho, a professional who has been in the field of law enforcement and social work for roughly four years, will be tasked with guiding program participants with their individual academic goals and assisting to ensure their success in college through various workshops and presentations.

Camacho holds an associate degree in Criminal Justice and a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice from Portland State University. She is the former executive director of Connecting Families Inc., a non-profit organization in the CNMI that facilitates supervised visitations and safe exchanges for families involved with domestic violence, sexual abuse, stalking, or dating violence. She is also a former probation officer and program manager for the Victim Assistance in Probation Program in the CNMI.

NMC

Neda B. Camacho is the new counselor for the Student Support Services Program of the Northern Marianas College.

Camacho will be providing personal and group-based counseling to students who are aiming to attain a liberal arts degree, who are still undecided with their intended major, and who will be transferring credits to a four-year university. She will also be responsible for helping increase self-understanding and develop independence during first years in college.

"I am delighted to welcome Neda to the NMC community," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera. "I am also extremely confident in the knowledge and talent she will share with student participants of the Student Support Services program."

The Student Support Services program is a federally funded program that assists college students with their basic requirements. SSS provides a number of services that includes personal and career counseling, academic advising, social enrichment events, and educational workshops. ***(NMC)***

ATOMIC BOMB PITS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rear Adm. Douglass T. Biesel, third from right, and Rear Adm. Paul J. Bushong, third from left, pose with, from left, Joint Region Marianas special political adviser Roy Tsutsui, CNMI historian Don Farrell, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Sen. Jude Hofschneider, and Municipal Council chair Patrick Manglona during a visit to the North Field bomb pits on Tinian on March 17. Biesel, the outgoing commander of the Joint Region Marianas U.S. Naval Forces, accompanied Bushong, the incoming commander, during a courtesy call on several CNMI officials.

7 stores sued for alleged sale of expired items

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has filed lawsuits against seven stores on Saipan for allegedly selling expired items without displaying notices that the merchandises have expired, among other alleged violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

Assistant attorney general Michael L. Ernest asked the Superior Court to order the respondents to pay penalties not to exceed $2,500 for each violation of the Consumer Protection Act, attorney's fees, and court costs. He also asked the court to issue an injunction preventing the stores and its owners and agents from violating the Act.

Ernest stated in the complaint that, except for one, six stores were found selling expired items with no indications that the prices were reduced to or below half of their original retail price.

"They were listed as regular price. They were not marked as expired," he said.

Those items, he said, were stocked on shelves or displayed with merchandise that had not yet reached their expiration dates in a manner that did not clearly segregate the expired items from the others.

In another incident, items were being sold at prices higher than their advertised price, while one store was caught selling soda that were originally purchased from the military store.

A hardware store was also caught selling items that had no price tags or a sign containing the items' prices.

A. Samoa gets federal help for schools, airport

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, (Samoa News/PIR)—Delegate Faleomavaega Eni announced last week two separate grants for American Samoa—one with more than $10 million in school construction bonds and the other a $2.5 million grant for airport improvements.

Faleomavaega says the more than $10 million for qualified school construction bonds comes from provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin says the ARRA school construction bonds provide low-cost borrowing to build and upgrade schools, which is a win-win for communities across the country.

"The projects funded with these bonds create jobs today building modern schools to prepare our kids for the global economy of tomorrow," he explained in a news release.

Faleomavaega says American Samoa's allocation is determined on the "basis of respective populations of individuals below the poverty line" as a portion of the entire U.S. population below the poverty line.

This year, American Samoa will be eligible for $10,614,000 in Recovery Act school construction bonds, he explained in a news release.

"Essentially, these tax credit bonds will allow ASG to obtain low-cost financing for much needed construction, rehabilitation or repair of our schools and may also be used for the acquisition of land where a school will be built," Faleomavaega said.

He thanked Congress and the Obama Administration for working closely with the Congressional Delegates "to make sure that our requests for opportunities and funding were included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act."

Regarding airport funds, Faleomavaega says those will come from two grant awards totaling US$2.5 million and both grants are funded from the Airport Improvement Program administered by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 25, 1999

CUC determines 2nd review of bids today

Amid mounting clamor for a complete review, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation decides today whether to allow an independent evaluator to finish its task of selecting the "best and final offers" among various proposals for the new power project on Saipan. The Attorney General's Office has already recommended a second round on the review process being conducted by Burns & McDonnell, a private engineering firm hired by CUC in January to reevaluate all 13 proposals initially submitted for the project. The board of directors of the government-owned utility firm is set to meet this morning to vote on whether they will allow the next evaluation phase or award the $120 million contract to Marubeni-Sithe which topped both a CUC selection process and the independent reevaluation.

Experts see daunting task ahead for CNMI

In a move to save the island's declining economy, a group of economists, financial analysts and planners recently gathered here to help officials plan for the CNMI's economic future. While experts agree that the Northern Marianas will be able to rise from its present difficulties, they also believe that efforts to improve the economy won't be an easy task due to forces beyond the government's control. "We want to look at industries that offer business and employment opportunities capable of advancing the standard of living in the CNMI. We are looking at industries that require highly skilled and paid workers," said Jack Peters, director, Business Development Center.

MARCH 25, 2002

2003 budget now in the works

With just over a month left before the due date, the Babauta administration is now working hard on coming up with a Fiscal Year 2003 budget that it could submit to the Legislature before the May 3 deadline. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said Friday that, although he and his staff do not have a ballpark figure yet on how much the budget is going to amount to, they are now working hard toward meeting the deadline. "My staff is currently working on the budget, putting it together. Hopefully, we should be able to meet the deadline for submission to the Legislature," said Babauta.

Woman charged with 64 forgery counts

The Attorney General's Office filed 64 counts of forgery charges against a 33-year-old woman, who is under suspicion of faking 32 sets of checks and deposit slips amounting to approximately $50,000 within a six-month period last year. Rosalita T. Gabutin, a former employee of the MKI Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, has also been charged with one count of theft for allegedly taking the same amount. The Commonwealth through Assistant Attorney General Daniel Cohan alleged that Gabutin executed and/or transferred deposit slips, as well as checks, an average of at least five times a month from June to November 2001. According to court documents filed at the Superior Court, the defendant allegedly issued the checks and deposit slips despite the knowledge they were forged.

MARCH 25, 2003

Benavente to convene water task force

Lt. Governor Diego T. Benavente will soon convene the newly created task force on water to map out plans and strategies. "This is a major community concern. We really have to sit down and plan our course of action," Benavente said. He said he has asked the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to provide him with all the pertinent information. "I'm expecting to get the information from agencies so we can meet as soon as possible," he said. He said the group's first meeting may take place next week. The Governor recently formed the taskforce following concerns about Saipan's poor quality and insufficient amount of water.

Garment settlement nears end

Thousands of garment workers involved in the class action lawsuit against apparel manufacturers could receive monetary gains soon, once the U.S. District Court approves their request to approve a final settlement. The workers have asked the court for such approval, months after the court approved a preliminary proposed settlement that was negotiated for several years. The proposed settlement covers various legal actions against garment factories in the CNMI. "Plaintiffs are pleased to report that there were no objectors among the estimated 30,000 class members. Moreover, only 12 putative class members have chosen to exclude themselves from the settlement class," reported Joyce Tang, one of the plaintiffs' lawyers.

SIS senior is named National Merit finalist

Selyna Leon Guerrero, a senior at Saipan International School, has been selected as the CNMI's only National Merit Scholarship finalist for the 2009-2010 school year.

National Merit Scholarship finalists represent the top 15,000 students nationwide out of more than 1,500,000 who take a standardized test called the PSAT. Scholarship winners are judged on academic accomplishments, standardized test scores, leadership ability, and contributions to the school and community.

"I'm hoping that the award will help me get into a high-ranking college," said Leon Guerrero, 17. "It is a symbol of the things I've been able to achieve so far. I think it means that I've done some things right, but I still have quite a ways to go."

Selyna Leon Guerrero, the National Merit finalist from Saipan International School.

Leon Guerrero hasn't yet decided which major she wishes to pursue in college, but is considering literature and physics. She has applied to about a dozen colleges and universities throughout the country.

Dr. Dale Jenkins, the school's headmaster, lauded Leon Guerrero's accomplishment. "It is very gratifying to see an outstanding young woman like Selyna recognized as being one of the finest high school seniors in the world. She represents the best in what we hope our students to become. Selyna is extremely intelligent and combines the characteristics of integrity, sensitivity, and creativity in her life to be the type of person that we should all emulate."

Keith Tessen, the SIS college counselor, also praised Leon Guerrero. "The National Merit Scholarship represents one of the highest honors a high school student can achieve. It's wonderful to see Selyna's diligence, keen intellect, and commitment to service rewarded like this."

Leon Guerrero credits a private, non-profit program called QuestBridge for helping her in the arduous task of applying to colleges.

"QuestBridge is an organization that matches students to colleges, and it focuses on students who might not be able to go to a prestigious college otherwise," she said. "It really helped me during the application process."

One of Leon Guerrero's classmates from last year, Marya Oestreich, also has been named a 2009-2010 National Merit Scholarship finalist. Oestreich returned to her native Washington state over the summer. Two other SIS students, Katy Johnson and Caroline Lochabay, received the award two years ago. ***(PR)***

$2.5M awarded to expand Yap's early childhood education center

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced yesterday a $2,508,350 grant award to expand the capabilities of the Early Childhood Education Center on Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The two-story facility will feature new classrooms, offices spaces, and conference and training rooms for children in the Western Pacific island state affiliated with the United States.

"The first couple of years in any child's life are critical and fundamental to their development and learning process," Salazar said. "The building of this much-needed new center in Yap will afford children on the island the opportunity and access to quality support all children deserve in order to succeed later in school."

"Most importantly, overcrowding will be reduced and adequate space for the establishment of a safe, healthy developmental environment will be made," said Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta. "I am truly excited about the commencement of this project because it is vital that we establish a precedent of high quality, early childhood programs that provide children with the preparation they need to enter kindergarten ready for success."

The site of the new building will be in the capital of Colonia on Yap. The new facility will expand the childcare capacity of the existing Early Childhood Education Center. States in the Federated States of Micronesia receive operation funding and health and education program assistance under a Compact of Free Association with the U.S. Government. ***(PR)***

NEWS BRIEFS

DPL to suspend new beach front concession applications

The Department of Public Lands is temporarily suspending the acceptance of applications for commercial beach front concession permits on public land on Saipan, for all types of motorized and non-motorized marine activities, effective April 1, 2010.

This suspension is necessary to avoid the overcrowding of areas presently reserved for commercial beach concessions. The DPL shall coordinate with the Coastal Resources Management Office regarding current usage and to determine if other sites will be considered feasible for future commercial concessions. ***(PR)***

Babauta visits Saipan, Tinian

The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta will be in Saipan today, March 25, 2010. On Friday, March 26, Babauta will be traveling to Tinian.

Babauta, together with Gov. Benigno Fitial will tour the Saipan Southern High School today and launch the school's alternative/renewable energy project at 10am.

In the afternoon, he will tour the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power plant.

Tomorrow morning, he will visit the Tinian Health Center and announce a Tinian Health Center Grant. ***(PR)***

MAFEA to induct new officers, board

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects is scheduled to induct its new set of officers and Board of Directors on March 27, 2010, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Azucena Hall. The program will be from 6pm to 10pm.

The general membership of MAFEA is encouraging all engineers and architects in the Northern Mariana Islands to participate and attend the occasion and witness the installation of the new officers and board members.

"As comrades in the engineering industry, as partners in improving the islands' infrastructure, lets us show our support to the newly elected sets of officers who will carry out our goals as a professional organization," the group said in a statement. ***(PR)***

Bushong to take command of Joint Region Marianas

SANTA RITA, Guam—Rear Adm. Paul J. Bushong will relieve Rear Adm. Douglass T. Biesel during a change of command ceremony March 27.

The ceremony is scheduled for 11am at the Guam High School gymnasium on board U.S. Naval Hospital Guam compound in Agana Heights.

Bushong will serve as commander, Joint Region Marianas; U.S. Defense Representative Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau; and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas based in Guam.

Bushong is reporting to Guam after serving as commander, Submarine Group Two, Groton, Conn. He has served as commanding officer of USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40), homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam, and in other assignments on submarines based in the Pacific.

Biesel will serve as commander, Navy Region Northwest, Silverdale, Wash. ***(USN)***

US Naval Base Guam main gate reopens Friday

SANTA RITA, Guam—The main gate of U.S. Naval Base Guam will reopen Friday, 26 March, at 5:00 am, for authorized motorists.

Construction on the front gate has been completed and access to Naval Base Guam will resume around-the-clock through this gate.

The hours at the back gate to Naval Base Guam will return to 5:30am to 8:30am and 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

The X-Ray Wharf gate, opened temporarily for the construction, will be closed to normal traffic. ***(USN)***

Exercise Solid Curtain 2010 ongoing

Santa Rita, Guam—Exercise Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield 2010 is now ongoing at the U.S. Naval Base Guam and will last until March 26. This is the first year installations in Hawaii and Guam are participating in the exercise, and it is the largest Anti-Terrorism/Fleet Protection exercise conducted nationwide.

According to Lt. Gregory Jacobs, Naval Base Guam Security Officer, this annual exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security personnel to respond to threats to installations and units. Solid curtain/Citadel Shield 2010 is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise.

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal base and station operations, but there will be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around the base or delays in base access. Area residents may also see increased security activity associated with the exercise. ***(PR)***

2010 Fiestan San Isidro Raffle ticket winners

PRIZES, NAME, TICKET NO.
Grand, Vicente Yambao, 26257
Baby grand, Kaylani H. Manglona, 10326
1st, Lisa Thai, 29871
2nd, Nicole, 35554
3rd, Jesus/Jane, 11111
4th, Margarita Atalig, 14015
5th, Liza M, 23148
6th, No name, 8621
7th, Pilar Q. Lizama, 21424
8th, Brandean, 13950
9th, Frank Sobolewski, 6033
10th, MLM, 23829
11th, Benetton Garcia, 31618
12th, Clarita A. Barcinas, 31150
13th, Edith Leon Guerrero, 42233
14th, Loling, 10100
15th, No name, 1611
16th, King Frank, 14772
17th, Leonor F. Ayuyu, 23394
18th, Brandon Diaz, 29889
19th, Ann Victoria B. Ravell, 28285
20th, Mendioal-Garces, 5732
21st, Amelia Shai, 34932
22nd, No name, 1073

Contact Tina M. Atalig at 285-2648 to claim prize. Prizes not claimed in 40 days will be forfeited to the San Isidro-Sainan Ina Church funding.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-10-018

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting seal bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply of (2) Two CATERPILLAR XQ2000 - 2000 KW Standby / 1825kW Prime generating sets for CUC Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC take down existing generators for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. The existing generator sets on Rota are seriously overdue for overhauls and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

Due to this critical situation in Rota and the need for fast delivery and installation of two new generator sets the 1825kW Prime XQ2000 CATERPILLAR was selected. If availability of Brand New Modules exceeds ninety (90) days, only Used Modules with low hours will be considered.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not planned, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until March 29, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-018 Two XQ2000 CATERPILLAR Generating Modules"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Tuesday, April 06, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

With respect to bidders' employment of labor as an element of a bid, the Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page —http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All Inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Thursday April 02. 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 71

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Immigration reform: The next big thing

As the big showdown over health care unfolded on Capitol Hill on Sunday, tens of thousands rallied on the National Mall, trying to build momentum for the next big push. Their message: Barack Obama has been president for 14 months and our immigration system is still broken. What's he waiting for?

Immigrant advocacy groups met with Obama a little more than a week ago to remind him of his promise to overhaul the system, including forging a path to citizenship for the 11 million now living here illegally. Their message, punctuated by Sunday's meet-up, was not subtle: Get off the dime or lose the support of the growing Latino electorate.

We've long favored a comprehensive approach to immigration reform — one that ensures our borders are safe, our labor needs are met and our workplaces operate fairly and legally. But Obama could be forgiven if he'd hoped to catch his breath before charging back into that battle. The last attempt to fix the system went down in flames in 2007, when the U.S. unemployment rate was less than 5 percent and employers were howling that they couldn't find enough workers. Even then, many Americans were openly hostile to the idea of legalizing those who'd broken the law to get here.

U.S. unemployment is now 9.7 percent. Everyone in Washington is battered and grumpy. Plenty of incumbents are feeling vulnerable in the next election, and the Latino vote isn't their only worry. So the hurry-up campaign could easily backfire. But days before the rally, two intrepid senators got the ball rolling anyway.

Sens. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., outlined their plan Thursday. It touches all the right bases and includes some adjustments meant to overcome some of the arguments that defeated the last bill. It ran into a buzz saw immediately.

"Allowing millions of illegal immigrants to stay and take jobs away from citizens is like giving a burglar a key to the house," said Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas. And Graham himself suggested Friday that hard feelings from the health care fight could squelch bipartisan efforts for immigration reform this year.

So: It's on. Highlights of the still unfinished Schumer-Graham proposal:

■ Security: Continued emphasis on border security and interior enforcement, including a zero-tolerance policy for illegals who commit felonies.

■ Workplace enforcement: Biometric Social Security cards so employers can verify the immigration status of workers. Increased penalties — including fines and prison time — for employers who hire illegal workers.

■ Visas: Permanent resident status (green cards) for im-

See IMMIGRATION on Page 11

TODAY, FREEDOM DIED!
HEALTH BILL PASSES
RIGHT! THE FREEDOM TO LOSE YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR JOB!
THE FREEDOM TO BE DENIED COVERAGE BECAUSE OF A PRE-EXISTING CONDITION!
THE FREEDOM TO BE UNABLE TO AFFORD THE MEDICAL CARE YOU NEED!
THE FREEDOM TO LIVE IN FEAR OF ILLNESS, BANKRUPTCY AND RUIN!
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING OF THE FREEDOM TO SAY ANY EXTREME HYSTERICAL THING AND STILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY!
KEVIN SIERS ©2010 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

American history, right and left: Why not give students both sides and let them decide?

By JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Once upon a time, Americans did some very bad things. They enslaved Africans, displaced Indians, oppressed women and exploited laborers. Then the Great American Government came to the rescue.

Spurred by protest movements for freedom and equality, the government instituted changes that brought the nation progressively closer to its founding promise.

That's the theme of most American history textbooks. And it's also what offended the Texas Board of Education, which voted last week to approve a new set of social studies standards that emphasize America's timeless virtues. The current standards, one board member explained, "are rife with leftist political periods and events: the Populists, the Progressives, the New Deal and the Great Society."

And here's what most of my fellow liberals won't admit: He's right. These bursts of reform are the spine of the story that we tell ourselves, about who we are and who we want to be. When a social problem arises, we press our elected representatives to devise new laws and institutions that will make America more compassionate, decent and fair.

That's how most liberals—and, I should add, most historians—see the world. Our heroes are the champions of social justice—Frederick Douglass, Jane Addams, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and so on—and the presidents who tried to put their ideas into practice: Abraham Lincoln, both Roosevelts, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

It's not an unalloyed embrace, mind you. Many of us have criticized these politicians for their errors, blind spots and inconsistencies. Kennedy takes a pummeling every few years for the Bay of Pigs, as does Johnson for escalating the war in Vietnam.

But even our disparagement of liberal icons demonstrates our overall adherence to the liberal script. In the great national drama, our leaders are supposed to harness the power of government to the principle of social justice. And when they don't, we take them to task.

Our scholarship about conservatism reflects a similar bias. Over the last few decades, historians have produced brilliant studies of Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and the rise of the so-called Christian right. But most of this work proceeds from the basic assumption that the right was wrong: about religion, race, the economy and everything else.

And now—surprise—conservatives are fighting back. Look closely at the new Texas social studies standards and you'll find attacks on every sacred cow in the liberal pantheon, starting with the separation of church and state. While liberals often impute the principle to the Founding Fathers, the Texas standards hold that the founders imagined America as a "Christian nation."

The new standards also reject the idea of American imperialism, preferring to call it "expansionism." They insist on the superiority of America's "free enterprise system," which will replace the prior standards' reference to "capitalism." (Capitalism, one school board member explained, "does have a negative connotation. You know, 'capitalist pig.'")

When we get to the Cold War, the new standards note that recent archival discoveries "confirmed suspicions of communist infiltration in the U.S. government." And for the 1960s and beyond, the standards advise, students should examine the "unintended consequences" of Great Society legislation, affirmative action and Title IX.

Conservatives on the Texas school board claim that these changes will simply provide "balance" to the dominant liberal paradigm. But their red-meat rhetoric says otherwise. Would these people rest easily if students—following a "balanced" discussion—concluded that the Great Society and affirmative action were really great ideas?

I think not. And the same goes for liberals, who would bridle if the students walked away from class believing that '60s-era reforms were failures. For the most part, Americans do not enter this arena to make the case for "balance." Instead, they want their side to win.

See AMERICAN on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Deadlines

Make your life a masterpiece by taking the 60 Day Challenge. As the artist, you can create any life you want by setting and achieving worthwhile goals. Each week until May 20th this column will share ideas and stories to help motivate you toward your objectives. If you'd like a form to help you write your goals, you can email us at biz_results@yahoo.com.

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

In my College Success classes, I had the students write down goals in different areas of their life. Many of the goals are inspiring, but almost all of them have one common fault – there are no deadlines to achieve them. The reason many do not achieve their goals in life is because their goals are to general, or they don't set deadlines. One of the biggest mistakes you can make when you set your goals is to not have a specific date that commits you to complete your tasks and achieve your goals.

Many events and activities in life carry built-in deadlines for completion. For example, if you participate in team sports there are specific dates to play other teams and exact dates for the final games. If you go to college or attend classes, assignments are given with specific deadlines. Before the course ends, tests or projects are due on specific dates.

Often, deadlines are established around special events in one's life such as a birthday, anniversary, holiday, graduation, or other celebration. These dates can create a sense of urgency that motivates one to look and feel better, acquire a possession, take a trip, or achieve recognition. No one "forgets" to buy presents for Christmas because December 25th is a deadline date to have presents under the tree.

However, many individuals will procrastinate buying a gift until the last minute. It's been said that 90 percent of the activity to complete a task is accomplished in the last 10 percent of time before the deadline. From our own personal experience, there is a lot of truth to the statement.

Parkinson 's Law states: "*Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion."* In relationship to your goals, that completion date is your deadline. If you give yourself a long time to complete a task or goal, then you will find some way to fill the time until the task is due. If you have a shorter deadline, you will create a sense of urgency that causes you to become more productive.

Combining Parkinson's Law with the first truism, we created a corollary that states: *"Ninety percent of the work will be accomplished in the remaining ten percent of time available for its completion."*

Without a deadline, that work would not be accomplished and no progress would be achieved, or the available time would be expanded until a crisis forces a deadline. That's why it's critical to set a specific deadline for you to complete your work, accomplish a task, and achieve your goals. With personal goals, there is no external agent to impose a date for completion. You are the master of your goals.

The sad truth is that many people do not want to commit to a specific date because they do not really want to get serious about their goals. You will get in better physical condition when you get serious about getting into great shape. Until you decide to eat better and exercise more you will continue to suffer from poor-fitting clothes, struggle with weight issues, and lack energy and vitality.

You will make advances in your career when you seriously decide to achieve your goals by a certain date. During the period of time that you have to reach your goals, you must commit to raising your standards and develop the knowledge, skills and abilities that will make you more valuable to your employer or customers.

You will improve your financial situation when you get serious about developing a plan for execution and consistently work on it until you've achieved it by your deadline. Many would like to have more money or a better job, but it just won't happen until a plan is created and a deadline is set in stone.

So get serious about your goals and commit to a specific date for their completion because you will always work best when you have an agreed upon target date to complete your goals. By enforcing a deadline and building accountability into each action, you will make much faster progress. Deadlines that are shared, understood, agreed upon, and committed to is the key to getting yourself and others focused and motivated in the right direction. Deadlines simply challenge you to perform better and get more accomplished.

Letters to the Editor

Empowering ourselves

If anything happened a year ago and I would need to go back home to the Philippines, I would have been scared. In fact, the first day I reported for work here in Laos, I thought I was going back to the Philippines. I remember every word I heard and how it scared the heck out of me. It was a dreadful wake up call but looking back, I know now that it was actually a blessing in disguise. The one thing I needed.

Over the 12 years that I was on Saipan, my mother kept reminding me to start building my own home and a business that can support me and my children when I go back home for good. I never paid attention. For one, I was not thinking of going home for good anytime soon. For another, I didn't have the money to do anything. It didn't feel wrong that time. I also remember Ms. Lavilla, then our Labor Representative, who several times would corner me on one side and talk to me about the need to create an awareness among the CNMI guest workers on the importance of smart living in terms of how we spend our hard earned money, savings and the fact that the CNMI is just our temporary home. That was the reason why we had the Labor Office come to some of our meetings to explain job opportunities in other countries like Canada, Italy, etc., because we all knew how depressed the CNMI economy is and it was so impossible to encourage anyone to save.

So going back to the memories of the day I was told to leave Laos, I remember staying in our hotel room for days, just crying and desperately trying to come up with a plan. I could not go back to Saipan because I don't have a job anymore. At the same time, I could not go back home to the Philippines and be a burden to my family. I didn't have any savings at all. That's when I realized how miserable I was and how correct my mother and Ms. Lavilla were. God, in His mercy, gave me another chance. He probably figured that at the end of the second day, I already saw the lesson He was trying to teach me. On the third day, I received an unexpected call from my former boss and the rest is history.

The lesson I learned from that experience is that fear comes from insecurities. The fear of losing my job came from knowing that I was not prepared to go home. I learned the valuable lesson of working everyday on the process of preparing myself to go home, mentally and financially. From that time on, I would make a budget every payday on how I will spend my money. I made sure that every cent will be spent wisely. Fourteen months later, I already have an Internet cafe, a shop, a small eatery and am now building my dream house. And while I still fear the thought of losing my job, I live my life content knowing that I have a place anytime I need to go home. I've also learned that everyone we meet and become friends with while we are away from home is temporary but not our family. I have learned to appreciate my family more and nurture my relationship with them.

It is never late to learn and change our perceptions. The CNMI is not our home. We should be excited to go back home one day and be with our family. After all, it is really home sweet home.

Irene N. Tantiado
Savannakhet, Laos PDR

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank SHEFA and the CNMI Scholarship Office for helping finance my education. On March 13, I received my master's degree through Framingham State College. Without the scholarship grants awarded me, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish this task. I am a Social Studies teacher here at Kagman High School. I owe this accomplishment to SHEFA and the CNMI Scholarship Office for all the assistance they've provided. Thank you Sue Dris and Mr. Bill Torres at SHEFA! You guys are the bomb!

Josie Kaipat
Kagman II, Saipan

Wow!

My wife Janet and I, Richard Bradbury, were Peace Corps Volunteers on Saipan in 1969-70. While there we assisted in formation and publication of *The Marianas Star*, a weekly newspaper begun by a group of forward-thinking Micronesians, including Lazarus Salii, Felix Rabauliman and Nick Tenorio(?). We also were advisors to the radio station and I managed the government print shop for a few months. But our main job was the newspaper. There was not enough advertising revenue to continue and as we neared the end of our two-year term of Peace Corps service, the newspaper was taken over and printed through the auspices of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Janet and I returned stateside, where I was editor of a daily newspaper in Madison, SD, for three years, then purchased a weekly newspaper in Milnor, ND. We published the Milnor paper, *The Teller*, from July 1, 1973, until selling it in October 2007. I am retired and Janet is working for NRCS for another year or two.

I was watching a National Geographic special tonight and saw a short report about Palau, looked on Google maps and found Saipan. I was astounded to see at least five golf courses and did some more investigating, and discovered this site (Editor's Note: www.saipantribune.com). All I can say is "Wow. How times have changed." Incidentally, I think we still have some copies of *The Marianas Star.*

Richard Harrington Bradbury
Rutland, ND

AMERICAN

From Page 10

And that's the real back story of the tragicomedy that's unfolding in Texas. It's easy for coastal liberals to scoff at the unlettered rubes of the Lone Star State, who are obviously revising history to fit their present-day predilections. But that's what we all do, all the time, and then we foist these ideas on our kids.

What if we gave them multiple points of view instead? Recent history gives us a perfect opportunity to do precisely that. After the arch-liberal author Howard Zinn died in January, his "A People's History of the United States" shot to No. 12 on the New York Times paperback nonfiction list. Just behind—at No. 15—was Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen's conservative "A Patriot's History of the United States," which received a big boost when Glenn Beck pumped it on his radio and TV shows.

So here's a modest proposal: Instead of bickering about the "correct" version of the past, the Texas school board should decree that every high school history class use both of these texts. That would teach students that Americans disagree—vehemently—about the making and the meaning of their nation. And it would require the kids to sort out the differences on their own.

Most of all, though, it would require adults to be more "liberal" in the dictionary sense of the word: tolerant, reasoned and open-minded. And we would all need to be willing to lose, of course, if our children decided that our version of history was wrong.

Will we let them?

Jonathan Zimmerman teaches history and education at New York University. He is the author, most recently, of Small Wonder: The Little Red Schoolhouse in History and Memory. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

IMMIGRATION

From Page 10

migrants who earn high-tech degrees from U.S. universities. More flexibility to admit temporary workers for low-skill jobs as dictated by the needs of the economy. A tracking system to make sure temporary workers don't overstay their visas.

■ Citizenship: A path to legalization for those who have been living and working here illegally. They'd have to pay fines and back taxes, perform community service, learn English, pass background checks and take their place in line.

The plan is still sketchy but has its flashpoints: Biometric Social Security cards spark concern over privacy and reliability. Earned citizenship is a lightning rod for those who say it rewards people for breaking the law. Others say the proposal doesn't do enough to address a backlog of pending visa applications.

Obama praised the senators for their leadership and promised "to do everything in my power to forge a bipartisan consensus this year." We've just had a good long look at how hard that will be.

(c) 2010, Chicago Tribune

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°

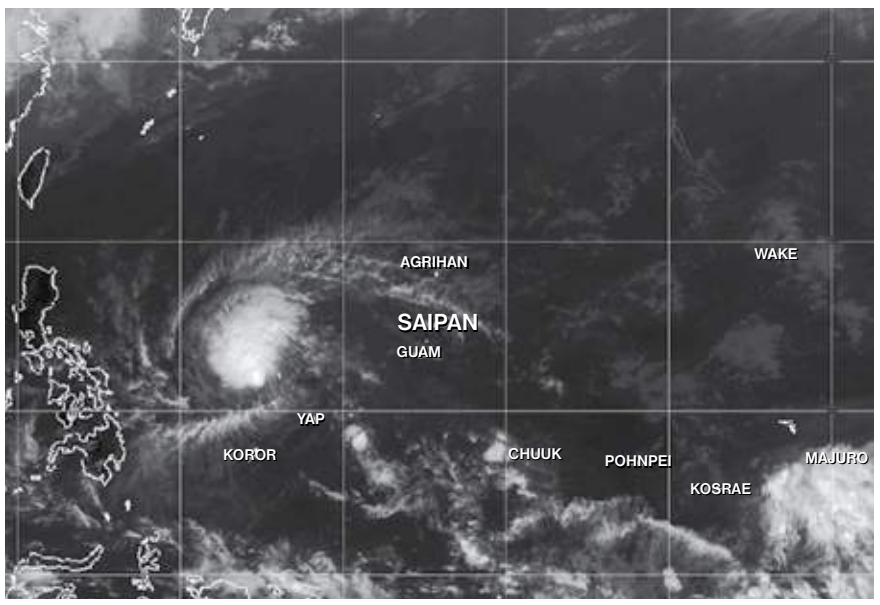
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼76
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼81
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲67	▼59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲50	▼33
Hong Kong	Rain	▲63	▼57
Honolulu	Showers	▲80	▼70
London	Showers	▲57	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲70	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼60
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼71
New York	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼41
Osaka	Rain	▲52	▼39
Paris	Showers	▲57	▼47
Pusan	Showers	▲52	▼30
Rome	Sunny	▲67	▼52
Salem	Rain	▲55	▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼47
Seoul	Rain	▲40	▼21
Tokyo	Rain	▲46	▼41
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲63	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm 02W is centered northwest of Yap near 11N135E with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph and moving westward at 13 mph. Showers and isolated thunderstorms are found mainly northwest of the center within 125 miles of a line from 12N134E to 16N136E. For more information on Tropical Storm 02W see public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins issued by JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers southeast of Yap within 50 miles of a line from 9N141E to 6N143E and just west of Chuuk within 50 miles of a line from 8N150E to 6N152E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Marshall Islands and Tarawa between the equator and 7N from 166E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:29 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
2:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:38 PM	1:58 AM
Friday	2:40 PM	2:49 AM
Saturday	3:40 PM	3:38 AM
Sunday	4:40 PM	4:23 AM
Monday	5:39 PM	5:08 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 23, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z604	2:20am	6:10am	1
0Z604	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
0Z606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z604/701	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z604/701	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
0Z606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

0Z604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
0Z604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
0Z603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
0Z702/603	1:10pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
0Z704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

0Z724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
0Z750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
0Z722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

China thwarts Google's detour around censorship

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google's attempted detour around China's Internet censorship rules was met with countermeasures Tuesday by the communist government, which blocked people on the mainland from seeing search results dealing with such forbidden topics as the pro-democracy movement.

China's maneuver, as well as its public rebuke of Google's decision to stop censoring searches for the government, rattled some of the company's investors, advertisers and users.

The chief concern is whether Google poisoned its business in one of the world's most promising Internet markets. One analyst critical of Google's move predicted the maneuver will cause the company's stock to fall by as much as $50—or about 10 percent—in the coming weeks.

A photographer takes photos as a man places a greeting card on the Google logo surrounded with offered flowers in front of the Google China headquarters in Beijing Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

AP

The stock fell $8.50, or 1.5 percent, to $549 Tuesday.

Last month, Google said it no longer felt comfortable complying with the country's demands that it censor Web content deemed objectionable by the communist rulers. On Monday, Google began sending Web searchers in mainland China from the China-based Google.cn to Google.com.hk, based in Hong Kong. The former British colony has an open Internet, and Google is not legally required to censor results there.

But that end-run doesn't prevent China's government from using its Internet filters—known as the Great Firewall—to block some search results and Web sites from being seen in the mainland.

Pay cuts coming for execs at bailed-out companies

WASHINGTON (AP)—The top earners at five big companies still living on federal bailout money will take a 15 percent pay cut this year, the Obama administration's pay czar says—yet many will still make millions.

Kenneth Feinberg also said cash salaries would be capped at $500,000 this year for the vast majority of the top executives at the five companies. Any further compensation has to be in stock. Still, he said, 69 of the 119 executives covered by the restrictions will take home pay packages worth more than $1 million.

The announcements Tuesday were the administration's latest effort to deal with outrage over lucrative pay provided to executives of bailed-out companies while the public struggles with stagnant wages and high unemployment.

Taxpayers can still expect to lose tens of billions on the rescues of the five companies: American International Group, GMAC Financial Services, Chrysler Financial, Chrysler and General Motors.

Feinberg said his review refuted companies' complaints that pay restrictions would drive away top talent. Inside the five companies, 84 percent of the top executives covered by last year's pay limits have stayed put, he said.

"These statistics undercut the argument that if you don't pay more, people will leave," Feinberg said. "They are not leaving."

APAFS holds student investment competition in Asia Pacific region

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies brings back the "Write Investment," a student competition that serves as an educational component of its Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference (PRIC).

Students from different universities across the Pacific Region are invited to participate to win an all-expense paid trip to the conference, which will be held in Manila, Philippines on Oct. 14 and 15, 2010 or a $500 worth of scholarship funds to the student's home institution.

Roland

Okada

The PRIC gathers around more than 300 fund and trust managers, finance executives, ambassadors, industry leaders and experts in one venue to discuss best practices in the investment industry. It aims to provide participants with current developments pertaining to the relevant tools needed to measure performance of investment managers, investment consultants and other service providers.

"This competition is one of APAFS' tools to educate and equip future members of the boards of retirement funds, social security funds and trusts and give them the opportunity to learn from regional financial leaders. We are privileged to be in partnership with top colleges and universities in the Asia Pacific Region who are likewise dedicated to ensuring that maximum opportunities are given to future finance leaders of the world," says Daniel A. Roland, APAFS Executive Director.

Any student 18 years old and above and is currently enrolled for Spring 2010 at the time of application can represent a college or university that is an APAFS member. Students will compete by submitting a five-page investment analysis of a major company that makes a valid recommendation to buy or not to buy the stock of the company.

In 2008, seven universities participated in the competition, institutions such as University of Guam, Guam Community College, the Northern Marianas College, Palau Community College, the College of Micronesia-FSM, the College of the Marshall Islands, and University of the South Pacific joined this competition. This year, APAFS is expecting more students to participate.

The competition is now open and will receive entries not later than July 30, 2010 at 4pm. Entries must be emailed to gcpresident@guamcc.edu.

For inquiries about the Write Investment, please contact Ms. Mary A.Y. Okada at mary.okada@guamcc.edu or any APAFS representative at your institution. Visit www.apafs.org for more details. ***(PR)***

Fed cracks down on gift card abuses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve issued new rules on Tuesday to protect Americans from getting stung by unexpected fees or restrictions on gift cards.

Gift cards have grown in popularity—with more than 95 percent of Americans having received or purchased them, the Fed said.

And as usage has gone up, so too have complaints from people taken by surprise by fees that eat into the value of the cards as well restrictions on how long they'll be good for.

Under the rules, consumers must have at least five years to use the gift cards before they expire. The Fed also says service or inactivity fees can be imposed only under certain conditions.

Such fees can be charged if the consumer hasn't used the card for at least a year, if the consumer is given clear disclosures about them and no more than one fee is charged a month.

The rules take effect Aug. 22.

Congress ordered the Fed to issue the new protections under a law enacted last year.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who championed the gift card crackdown in Congress, wants faster implementation of the rules.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan's exports up 45 percent in February

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's exports climbed sharply in February, as a solidifying global recovery fueled the world's appetite for cars, machinery and gadgets. Exports jumped 45.3 percent from a year earlier to 5.13 trillion yen ($56.7 billion), marking the third straight month of year-on-year increase, the finance ministry said Wednesday. Car shipments surged 117 percent, while electronic machinery exports climbed 46 percent. General machinery rose 31.5 percent.

Former Samsung chairman Lee returns to post

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Lee Kun-hee, the former chairman of Samsung Electronics who was convicted of tax evasion and later pardoned by South Korea's president, has returned to lead the company after a nearly two-year absence, Samsung announced Wednesday. The 68-year-old Lee is a South Korean corporate icon and credited with turning the company into a major force in the global electronics industry. He was indicted on charges including tax evasion in April 2008 and resigned from his post before being convicted, fined and handed a suspended three-year prison sentence. There had been widespread speculation in South Korea that Lee would return to the company after he received a special presidential pardon late last year. The amnesty was given to allow the billionaire business magnate to rejoin South Korea's efforts to host the Winter Olympics after the country failed twice to bring them to PyeongChang, a mountain resort east of Seoul.

Oil falls to near $81 on US crude supplies jump

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to near $81 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a report showed a larger-than-expected jump in U.S. crude inventories last week. Benchmark crude for May delivery was down 62 cents to $81.29 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 31 cents to settle at $81.91 a barrel on Tuesday. Oil supplies in the U.S. have risen sharply in recent weeks, belying a slow but steady overall economic recovery and suggesting consumer demand remains weak.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,903.20 Up 15.30 (0.31%)
HONG KONG	21,080.21 Up 92.43 (0.44%)
JAKARTA	2,753.09 Up 32.23 (1.18%)
TOKYO	10,815.03 Up 40.88 (0.38%)
K. LUMPUR	1,308.61 Up 3.76 (0.29%)
MANILA	3,166.60 Up 37.36 (1.19%)
SINGAPORE	2,893.29 Down 12.37 (-0.43%)
SEOUL	1,681.01 Down 0.81 (-0.05%)
BANGKOK	790.44 Up 7.96 (1.02%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,888.83 102.94
NASDAQ	2,415.24 0.00
S&P	1,174.17 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0915
British Pound	0.6631
Canadian Dollar	1.0210
Chinese Renminbi	6.8267
Euro	0.7382
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7613
Indian Rupee	45.5950
Indonesian Rupiah	9,125.0000
Japanese Yen	90.0400
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3185
New Zealand Dollar	1.4181
Philippine Peso	45.6800
Singapore Dollar	1.4021
South Korean Won	1,135.6000
Swiss Franc	1.0597
Taiwan Dollar	31.7910
Thailand Baht	32.3500

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Judge: No school prom but lesbian's right violated

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—The prom's still off at a Mississippi high school that canceled it instead of letting a lesbian student bring her girlfriend, but a federal judge ruled Tuesday that the district's actions did violate the teen's constitutional rights. U.S. District Judge Glen H. Davidson refused the American Civil Liberties Union's demand to force the Itawamba County school district to put on the April 2 prom. However, he said canceling it did violate 18-year-old Constance McMillen's rights and that he would hold a trial on the issue. That would come too late for the prom to be salvaged at Itawamba Agricultural High School. Still, Kristy Bennett, ACLU Mississippi legal director, called the decision a victory.

Gun in Ala. campus shooting bought 2 decades ago

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The gun used to kill three people during a faculty meeting at an Alabama school was bought for the suspect's husband two decades ago when he said he was having problems with a neighbor, an investigator testified Tuesday. The investigator told a judge that an acquaintance bought the gun in New Hampshire for Amy Bishop's husband to skirt a waiting period where the couple lived in Massachusetts. Huntsville police investigator Charlie Gray also testified that Bishop denied to officers that she had anything to do with the rampage at a biology department faculty meeting Feb. 12, which also wounded three others. Bishop, making her first court appearance, was denied bond during a brief hearing. The capital murder case against her was sent to a grand jury, which is not expected to hear it for several months.

Three arrested as NC school board reverses busing plan

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—The school board in North Carolina's capital city narrowly agreed Tuesday to roll back a policy that buses students to achieve diversity, following a tense meeting at which three people were arrested, others were forcibly removed and heated arguments echoed passions from an era past. After dozens spoke at a hearing, the Wake County school board voted 5-4 to approve a new assignment policy aimed at placing students in schools near their homes. The talk was angry, as terms like "segregation" peppered many arguments. A crowd of students sitting outside the doors of the meeting chanted so loudly that they briefly disrupted the hearing. Extra police officers were on hand to provide security. Raleigh police said three men were charged with trespassing or resisting officers. One was released and two others remained jailed Tuesday night.

It's the law of the land: Health overhaul signed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Claiming a historic triumph that could define his presidency, a jubilant Barack Obama signed a massive, nearly $1 trillion health care overhaul on Tuesday that will for the first time cement insurance coverage as the right of every U.S. citizen and begin to reshape the way virtually all Americans receive and pay for treatment.

After more than a year of hyperpartisan struggle—and numerous near-death moments for the measure—Obama declared "a new season in America" as he sealed a victory denied to a line of presidents stretching back more than half a century. Democratic lawmakers cheered him on, giving the White House signing ceremony a rally-like atmosphere as they shouted and snapped photos with pocket cameras or cell phones.

Not everyone was cheering. The Democrats pushed the bill through Congress without GOP support, and the Republicans said Tuesday that those Democratic lawmakers would pay dearly in this November's elections. Opinion polls show the public remains skeptical, too, and Obama will fly to Iowa on Thursday for the first of a number of appearances that will be more like a continuing sales job than a victory lap.

Aside from the huge, real-life changes in store for many Americans, the White House hopes the victory—even as a companion Senate "fix-it" bill moves through the Senate—will revitalize an Obama presidency that has been all but preoccupied with health care for his first year and two months in office. Vice President Joe Biden was caught whispering a profanity as he exclaimed to the president what a big deal it was.

Indeed, the reshaping of one-sixth of the U.S. economy, to be phased in over several years, ranks among the biggest changes ever devised by Washington. That was a main complaint from Republicans who characterize the measure as a costly, wrongheaded government power grab. Obama and the Democrats portray it as literally a lifesaver for countless Americans.

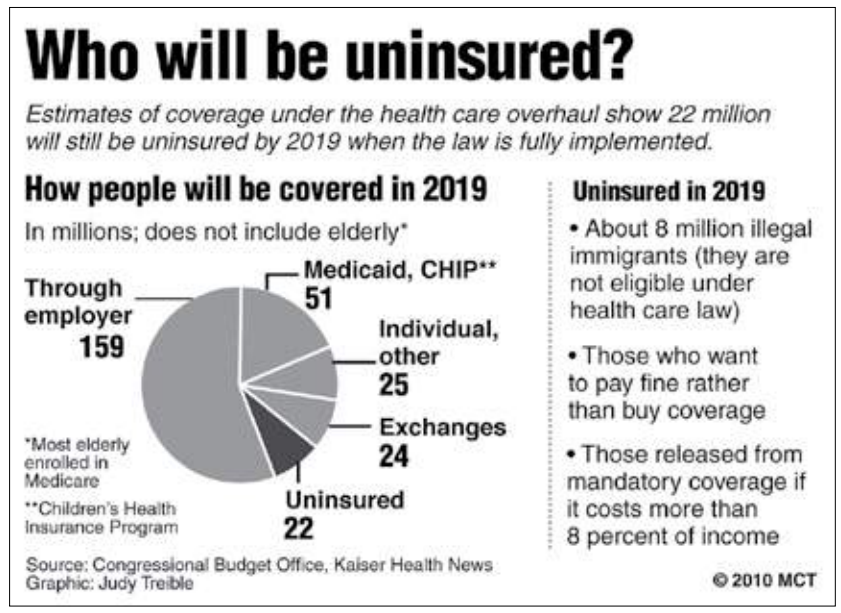
The core of the massive law is the extension of health care coverage to 32 million who now lack it, a goal to be achieved through a complex cocktail of new mandates for individuals and employers, subsidies for people who can't afford to buy coverage on their own, consumer-friendly rules clamped on insurers, tax breaks, and marketplaces to shop for health plans.

The law's most far-reaching changes don't kick until 2014, including a requirement that most Americans carry health insurance—whether through an employer, a government program or their own purchase—or pay a fine. To make that a reality, tax credits to help cover the cost of premiums will start flowing to middle-class families and Medicaid will be expanded to cover more low-income people.

Among the new rules on insurance companies are banning lifetime dollar limits on policies, coverage denials for pre-existing conditions, and policy cancellations when someone gets sick. Insurers also will have to allow parents to keep children on their plans up to age 26.

AP

President Barack Obama signs the health care bill in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, March 23, 2010.


Who will be uninsured?
Estimates of coverage under the health care overhaul show 22 million will still be uninsured by 2019 when the law is fully implemented.
How people will be covered in 2019
In millions; does not include elderly*
Through employer 159
Medicaid, CHIP** 51
Individual, other 25
Exchanges 24
Uninsured 22
*Most elderly enrolled in Medicare
**Children's Health Insurance Program
Uninsured in 2019
• About 8 million illegal immigrants (they are not eligible under health care law)
• Those who want to pay fine rather than buy coverage
• Those released from mandatory coverage if it costs more than 8 percent of income
Source: Congressional Budget Office, Kaiser Health News
Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2010 MCT

Gap in health care law's protection for children

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is scrambling to fix a potential problem with a much-touted benefit of its new health care law, a gap in coverage improvements for children in poor health, officials said Tuesday.

Under the new law, insurance companies still would be able to refuse new coverage to children because of a pre-existing medical problem, said Karen Lightfoot, spokeswoman for the House Energy and Commerce Committee, one of the main congressional panels that wrote the bill President Barack Obama signed into law Tuesday.

However, if a child is accepted for coverage, or is already covered, the insurer cannot exclude payment for treating a particular illness, as sometimes happens now. For example, if a child has asthma, the insurance company cannot write a policy that excludes that condition from coverage. The new safeguard will be in place later this year.

In recent speeches, Obama has given the impression that the immediate benefit for kids is much more robust.

Full protection for children would not come until 2014, said Kate Cyrul, a spokeswoman for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, another panel that authored the legislation. That's the same year when insurance companies could no longer deny coverage to any person on account of health problems.

Obama's public statements conveyed the impression that the new protections for kids were sweeping and straightforward.

"This is a patient's bill of rights on steroids," the president said Friday at George Mason University in Virginia. "Starting this year, thousands of uninsured Americans with pre-existing conditions will be able to purchase health insurance, some for the very first time.

Obama and Israeli PM meet amid dispute

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went two hours overtime in an unusually low-profile meeting Tuesday at the White House in the midst of a serious dispute about settlement construction.

Obama and Netanyahu conferred for about 90 minutes in the Oval Office, but in a break with custom reporters were not allowed to see the close allies shake hands and begin their discussions. The White House had no immediate comment on their talks. Netanyahu stayed behind at the White House for another two hours after the formal talks with Obama, but what he did during that time was not immediately clear.

Still, it is highly unusual for a visiting ally not to be seen with the president, either for photographs or statements, and the treatment seemed linked to a crisis marring relations between the two countries.

At issue is Israel's announcement two weeks ago, as Vice President Joe Biden visited the country, that it will build 1,600 new apartments in east Jerusalem, the largely Arab section of the disputed holy city. Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state and have delayed new U.S.-sponsored peace talks over what they say is an Israeli land grab.

Israel on Tuesday unveiled a grandiose plan for hotels, businesses and new housing for Palestinians in the center of east Jerusalem, but the announcement only brought Palestinian suspicion that it was an unacceptable payoff for new building in Jewish neighborhoods. The plan calls for developing a large area across from the Old City wall for tourism and commerce, as well as building 1,000 additional apartments.

On Capitol Hill, Netanyahu received a warm public reception from Congress on Tuesday, with a top Democrat and Republican joining to praise a leader who has refused to back down in a disagreement the White House says threatens new peace talks.

The bipartisan welcome underscored the breadth of congressional support for Israel even when a U.S. president wants to keep his distance. And it pointed to the limited options, beyond verbal rebukes, that the Obama administration faces in pressuring the Jewish state.

"We in Congress stand by Israel," the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., assured Netanyahu at an all-smiles appearance before the cameras. "In Congress we speak with one voice on the subject of Israel."

Asia

Carter: US, SKorea must talk directly with NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The U.S. and South Korea must prove to North Korea that they do not harbor any hostile intent if they want to avoid a "catastrophic war" with the nuclear-armed regime, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Tuesday.

Carter, whose historic visit to Pyongyang in 1994 led to a landmark disarmament deal with North Korea, described the North as "stubborn" and "paranoid," and said sanctions are unproductive.

He said the communist regime is unlikely to back down from the standoff over its nuclear weapons program without "a firm statement of 'no hostile intent' in the form of a treaty."

Carter, in accepting an honorary doctorate from Seoul's Korea University, urged the United States and South Korea to engage in unconditional direct talks with North Korea.

"No one can predict the final answers from Pyongyang, but there is no harm in making a major effort, including unrestrained direct talks," he said. "The initiative must be from America and South Korea."

Carter, now 85, went to North Korea in June 1994 as then-President Bill Clinton's envoy, meeting with late North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, father of the current leader, Kim Jong Il. Kim Il Sung died a month later.

The visit helped thaw the deep freeze in relations with the Korean War foe and paved the way for discussions on nuclear disarmament.

"It was obvious to me when I was in North Korea that there is deep resentment of the past and genuine fear of pre-emptive military attacks in the future," Carter said.

The 1994 disarmament accord that Carter skillfully negotiated alleviated tensions between the foes but fell apart in 2002 after President George W. Bush called North Korea part of an "axis of evil."

The two Koreas remain locked in a state of war because their three-year conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, in 1953. The United States still maintains 28,500 troops in South Korea to protect the ally against any aggression.

Pyongyang routinely cites the U.S. military presence as a key reason for building up its nuclear weapons program.

AP

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, center, receives the honorary doctoral degree in political science at Korea University in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

The U.S. and other regional powers have been trying for years to persuade Pyongyang to disarm in return for much-needed aid.

However, the North quit the six-nation disarmament talks last year after being criticized for a rocket launch seen as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions against developing its missile program. Weeks later, Pyongyang tested a nuclear bomb, its second, drawing tightened sanctions.

For months, the five other parties—the U.S., China, Japan, South Korea and Russia—have been pushing Pyongyang to rejoin the international disarmament talks.

North Korea, however, has demanded a lifting of sanctions and peace talks with the U.S. on formally ending the Korean War before it returns to the negotiations.

A busy round of diplomatic discussions have failed to yield a concrete promise from Pyongyang to return to the talks. Japanese and South Korean news reports said envoys from the five other nations agreed to hold a preliminary meeting, with or without North Korea.

Carter, a trained nuclear physicist, called sanctions counterproductive. He said the international community should give the impoverished nation humanitarian aid.

He also doubted that a change in leadership would bring any major shift in North Korean policy.

Kim Jong Il, now 68, is believed to be paving the way to name his third son as his successor.

Carter also met South Korean President Lee Myung-bak Tuesday morning and gave Lee his recent book on Middle East peace negotiations, Lee's spokeswoman Kim Eun-hye said.

Want to look rich in China? Buy a Tibetan mastiff

BEIJING (AP)—China's latest must-have luxury for the ultra-rich, to go with mansions and sports cars, is a large, slobbery dog with massive amounts of hair best known for herding sheep in Tibet.

Once banned by the Communist Party as bourgeois, pet ownership is booming in China, and the Tibetan mastiff is the dog of the moment for those who want to spread their wealth beyond stocks and real estate.

"I used to invest in German shepherds, but Tibetan mastiffs are what's hot right now," said Sui Huizheng, a business owner who has about 20 of the dogs and attended the 6th annual China Tibetan Mastiff Expo this past weekend.

Hundreds of the hairy dogs were on hand, and owners and handlers marched the most expensive ones down catwalks as though they were fashion models. Some carried the names of wealthy Americans like "Warren Buffett," while others were called "God" and "Prince." Among the owners was a controversial running coach who trained world track champions in the 1980s.

Their hoped-for prize: breeders willing to pay tens of thousands of dollars for a mate for their mastiff. Sui spent $43,000 for a large platform and a poster-plastered booth to show off his dogs. One breeding session with Sui's top mastiff King goes for $40,000.

The craze seems to defy sales patterns and common sense elsewhere, especially for a dog that is common, has thick, lion-mane-like hair, grows to 180 pounds (80 kilograms) and is known for being fierce.

"I can understand racehorses and diamonds, but I don't understand why someone would want to pay half a million dollars for a dog," said Martha Feltenstein, president of the American Tibetan Mastiff Association. "They have a relatively short life expectancy and are not especially rare, so it's quite puzzling why they are fetching such a high price in China."

In the U.S., Tibetan mastiff pups can be bought for as little as several hundred dollars, Feltenstein said.

Breeders in China say adult Tibetan mastiffs sell for tens of thousands of dollars, and can even go for more than $100,000.

One of them sold for more than half a million dollars last year to a woman in northern China who then sent 30 black Mercedes-Benz and other luxury cars to fetch the dog from the airport, according to a report in the state-run China Daily.

After splurging on real estate in Australia, American thoroughbreds and European designer fashions, China's rich see the Tibetan mastiffs as a new status symbol.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi against party joining elections

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Aung San Suu Kyi is against registering her opposition party for Myanmar's upcoming elections because the ruling junta's restrictions on the vote are "unjust," her lawyer said Tuesday.

Suu Kyi was quoted as saying she would "not even think" of registering her National League for Democracy for the polls—which the government says will be held this year—but stressed she will let the party decide for itself.

The NLD won the last elections held in Myanmar in 1990 by a landslide but was barred by the military from taking power. The credibility of the upcoming vote has already been called into question. It would suffer even more without the participation of the country's principal opposition party.

Suu Kyi

Suu Kyi is under house arrest and is effectively barred from running and voting in elections under recent laws enacted by the military-ruled government. One of the laws requires parties to register for the elections or cease to exist.

Her comments came ahead of a crucial meeting Monday in which NLD senior members will decide whether the party registers for the vote.

Although Suu Kyi has been under detention for 14 of the last 20 years, she is still general-secretary of the party and its most dominant figure. The Nobel Peace Prize winner had previously criticized the laws as "repressive" but had not yet given her opinion on what the party should do.

"Personally, I would not even think of registering (the party) under these unjust laws," Suu Kyi said, according to her lawyer Nyan Win who met with her Tuesday at her lakeside villa in Yangon.

Pakistan wants to question nuclear scientist

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani government has requested permission to question disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan over recent media reports that Pakistan arranged the transfer of nuclear technology to Iran.

The government move comes amid fears by the U.S. and its allies that Iran is using its nuclear program to develop atomic weapons. It also comes as top Pakistani officials are in Washington for bilateral talks this week, with Islamabad demanding that Washington acknowledge its progress in the fight against terrorism.

The request to Pakistan's High Court in the city of Lahore came Monday as the court was preparing to rule on a petition by Khan against restrictions against his movement. Khan can only leave his house in the capital surrounded by a team of government agents and is prevented from meeting foreigners.

The court is expected to rule Wednesday on both requests.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Beijing catches breath after sandstorm

BEIJING (AP)—Beijing caught its breath Tuesday after the dispersal of sandstorms that had shrouded cities in northern China in an unhealthy cloud of sand and grit. The return to normal weather also was good news for South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, which had all felt the fallout from the storms. The storms were the latest sign of the effects of desertification: Overgrazing, deforestation, urban sprawl and drought have expanded deserts in the country's north and west. The shifting sands have gradually encroached onto populated areas and worsened sandstorms that strike cities, particularly in the spring.

Officials: US missiles kill 3 in NW Pakistan

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. missile struck a house in northwest Pakistan close to the Afghan border Tuesday, killing three people, Pakistani intelligence officials said. The identities of the victims in Miran Shah in North Waziristan were not known, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to media. North Waziristan is dominated by militants from the Haqqani network, which is blamed for attacks against U.S. and NATO forces across the border in Afghanistan.

Fire in old Calcutta building kills 6, injures 20

CALCUTTA, India (AP)—A fire raced through the upper floors of an old, six-story building in Calcutta on Tuesday, killing six people, including two who jumped to their deaths as onlookers began to crowd the area. Thousands of people gathered in a busy section of the eastern Indian city to watch firefighters use ladders to rescue dozens of people trapped inside the office-and-apartment building while dense smoke and fire billowed from the fourth floor upward. About 20 people were injured. Police were investigating the cause of the fire, which was believed to have started in an elevator, police officer Javed Shamim said. Nearly 100 firefighters spent several hours to control the blaze.

World

Mexico: Widow IDs slain husband as arrested man

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A drug suspect arrested in northern Mexico over the weekend turned up dead hours later with signs of torture on his corpse, prompting denials from the navy that it had anything to do with the man's death.

The navy said in a statement late Tuesday that troops helped transport two suspects, one of them wounded in a clash with police in a suburb of Monterrey, to a hospital on Sunday. There, it said, custody was handed over to the police chief of the city, Santa Catarina.

TV news footage from that day showed Jose Marquez Compean surrounded by troops and in the custody of soldiers. His beaten body was found wrapped in a blanket in the nearby city of San Nicolas de los Garza on Monday.

Marquez Compean's wife, Hilda Rodriguez, told Milenio Television on Tuesday that she had identified her husband's body and seen images of his arrest.

"I saw him in the news, how they put him in a patrol and then a helicopter, and then he turns up dead," Rodriguez sobbed. "Why did they kill him? Who killed him? I want justice. I have three children."

Alejandro Garza y Garza, attorney general of Nuevo Leon state, where Santa Catarina is located, told Milenio the police officers who made the arrest are being investigated. No arrests have been made.

Santa Catarina security chief Rene Castillo said he had no knowledge whatsoever of the case.

"I don't know anything, I don't know anything. That's my position," Castillo told The Associated Press.

Marquez Compean and two others were arrested Sunday by Santa Catarina police officers who were part of a convoy carrying Castillo on official business.

The convoy was later attacked by gunmen in an apparent attempt to free the suspects. Two of the security chief's bodyguards were killed, and four other people wounded.

The metropolitan area of Monterrey, Mexico's third-largest city, has been gripped by escalating violence between drug cartels and security forces.

President Felipe Calderon has deployed tens of thousands of soldiers and federal police across Mexico over three years in a U.S.-backed campaign to crush brutal cartels battling each other for trafficking and drug-dealing turf.

AP

A suspect is taken away by Mexican navy marines at a crime scene in Santa Catarina near Monterrey, Mexico, Sunday, March 21, 2010.

Quake hits Chile winemakers

MOLINA, Chile (AP)—When Chile's worst earthquake in 50 years hit, Alvaro Galan bolted out of bed and ran, still in pajamas, to his winery next door.

In the 4 a.m. darkness of the echoing warehouse, rocking and groaning from aftershocks, he waded through a scene from a sinking submarine: Streams of liquid sprayed from cracked tanks that teetered and slammed against each other, and the cement floor ran red with cabernet.

Galan worked desperately to siphon the wine into undamaged tanks, but by dawn he had lost 30,000 gallons (110,000 liters)—plus the pajamas off his back, wrapped like a tourniquet around a broken spigot.

"If one of the hatches had blown," he recalled, "it would have come flying off with the pressure and taken me with it."

Across Chile's vaunted wine-growing region, vintners like Galan scrambled in the first crucial hours after the Feb. 27 quake to save their livelihoods. Three weeks later, a desperate struggle continues as farmers brace up fallen vines and race to bring in the current harvest.

An early estimate put the total initial loss at 33 million gallons (125 million liters) worth $250 million, or 13 percent of Chile's annual production.

Consumers probably won't notice a price increase, given the size of the world market. But as officials size up the cost of reduced capacity for the world's fifth-largest wine exporter, many producers are facing a harsh new economic landscape that may put them out of business and deliver a second, cruel blow to families coping with lost homes and loved ones.

Francois Waleski, an export manager at the Valdivieso winery, says the industry has been challenged recently by a weak U.S. dollar after decades of strong growth.

"Everybody is struggling to keep up with the harvest," Waleski said. "I wouldn't be surprised if some wineries don't make it."

Baboons gobble grapes in South African wine region

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Baboons, it seems, prefer pinot noir. They also like a nice chardonnay.

Largely undeterred by electric fences, hundreds of wild baboons in South Africa's prized wine country are finding the vineyards of ripe, succulent grapes to be an "absolute bonanza," said Justin O'Riain of the University of Cape Town.

Winemakers have resorted to using noisemakers and rubber snakes to try to drive the baboons off during harvest season.

"The poor baboons are driven to distraction," said O'Riain, who works in the university's Baboon Research Unit.

"As far as baboons are concerned, the combination of starch and sugar is very attractive—and that's your basic grape," he said.

Growers say the picky primates are partial to sweet pinot noir grapes, adding to the winemakers' woe: Pinot noir sells for more than the average merlot or cabernet sauvignon.

"They choose the nicest bunches, and you will see the ones they leave on the ground. If you taste them, they are sour," said Francois van Vuuren, farm manager at La Terra de Luc vineyards, 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Cape Town. "They eat the sweetest ones and leave the rest."

Baboons have raided South Africa's vineyards in the past, but farmers say this year is worse than previous ones because the primates have lost their usual foraging areas due to wildfires and ongoing expansion of grape-growing areas.

AP

In this photo taken Friday, March 19, 2010, a Baboon look fore grapes at a vineyard on the Constantia Uitsig wine estate situated on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa.

UK expels Israeli diplomat over Dubai case

LONDON (AP)—Britain took the extraordinary step Tuesday of expelling an Israeli diplomat for the first time in more than 20 years, after concluding there was compelling evidence that Israel was responsible for the use of forged British passports in the plot to slay a senior Hamas operative in Dubai.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said trust between the two countries had been badly dented, demanded formal assurances it never happen again and—in an unusual step—issued travel advice to U.K. citizens warning their identity details may be at risk if they visit Israel.

Miliband told the House of Commons that the expelled diplomat, who has not been named, was removed following an investigation into the use of 12 fake U.K. passports in the Jan 20. slaying in Dubai.

"We have concluded that there are compelling reasons to believe that Israel was responsible for the misuse of the British passports," Miliband said.

Britain's Serious and Organized Crime Agency found the forged British passports were copies of authentic documents handed to Israeli officials for inspection either in Israel or other countries, Miliband said. He said the fakes were high-quality and almost certainly "made by a state intelligence service."

"The actions in this case are completely unacceptable and they must stop," Miliband said.

However, Miliband insisted Britain has drawn no conclusions over who is responsible for the killing of Hamas official Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, saying investigation by Dubai authorities was continuing.

Dubai authorities accuse Israel's Mossad of carrying out al-Mabhouh's killing in a luxury hotel room, and have identified at least 26 suspects in an alleged hit squad—members of which used forged European and Australian passports.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cuban attorney general out due to health reasons

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba announced its second leadership shake-up of the month on Tuesday, replacing Attorney General Juan Escalona Reguera, who fought under Fidel and Raul Castro in the rebel army that toppled dictator Fulgencio Batista more than half a century ago. A brief statement read on Cuban state television said the 78-year-old Escalona Reguera was leaving his post for health reasons. He apparently remains a member of the Communist Party Central Committee. A lawyer by training, Escalona Reguera is one of the most veteran figures in Cuba's revolutionary leadership, joining Raul Castro's rebel column in eastern Cuba in 1958, and presiding over the wedding of Raul Castro and Vilma Espin the following year. He served as a brigadier general and top administrator before becoming justice minister in 1983, and head of parliament six years later.

US warns of al-Qaida threat to ships off Yemen

CAIRO (AP)—The U.S. is warning of possible al-Qaida attacks against ships off the coast of Yemen, where an offshoot of the terrorist network has established a significant base of operations over the past year. Yemen became a focus of deep international concern in December when al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility for the failed attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner, showing the group based in an impoverished and unstable corner of the Middle East had global reach. "Information suggests that al-Qaida remains interested in maritime attacks in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden along the coast of Yemen," said an advisory from the U.S. Department of Transportation, which was posted on the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence Web site.

German 'gang of retirees' sentenced in kidnapping

BERLIN (AP)—Three German retirees who lost $1.4 million in the financial crisis and kidnapped their American investment adviser in an attempt to recoup the money were convicted Tuesday, with their 74-year-old ringleader sentenced to six years in prison. Two couples, aged between 61 and 80, had invested their savings with James A., a financial adviser who worked out of offices in the U.S. and Germany, the Traunstein regional court said. They received 12 percent annual interest for four years, according to the court. The German weekly Spiegel said on its Web site that James A., 57, had made investments in real estate projects in Florida since the 1990s. In 2005, Amburn's group of companies was shaken by the U.S. crisis, and he could not come up with the promised interest anymore, Spiegel said.

Environment

Rota takes steps toward better island conservation

Photos of the participants from the CAP Workshop.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROTA—This week on Rota, resource agencies gathered together to prioritize their efforts and resources to create a management plan for improved conservation in the Sabana-Talakhaya watershed, through a Conservation Action Plan workshop facilitated by the Nature Conservancy, Micronesia Program.

About 20 resource managers from Rota, Saipan and the Pacific Region participated in the locally led process to outline measurable goals that will be used to coordinate work in the area and to aid in the securing of funding for the island's conservation projects.

The group dove into the process by creating a local vision for the island: "Protehi I rikesan I tano yan I tasi" ("Protect the wealth of the land and the sea").

They then identified threats facing land, sea, endangered and valued species of plants and animals. They debated the most effective way to approach these threats by taking a closer look at fire (burning), over-harvesting and soil erosion.

Guided by the adaptive management tool Miradi, which was developed through the Conservation Measures Partnership, the community took a closer look at the underlying causes behind the threats. The tool uses inputs from the local community about the condition of the natural resources and uses them to guide the creation of a visual management plan.

The workshop, funded by the CNMI's Coral Reef Initiative had the participation of the Rota offices of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of the Mayor of Rota, the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Division of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources Management, NOAA's Pacific Islands Regional Office and the Pacific Marine Resources Institute. ***(PR)***

Coral Reef Summer Internships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coastal Resources Management Office interns work on a project.

Are you looking for a summer job? Would you like to gain some experience in the environmental field? The Coastal Resources Management Office is looking for 10-12 college students, or college bound high school graduates with an interest in learning more about coral reef resource management. Past internships have included marine monitoring, geographic information systems, community education and outreach, fisheries, enforcement, non point source pollution.

Our summer interns typically work about 20 hours a week between June and August and are paid $7 per hour. To be considered, submit the following documents:

- CNMI Employment Application
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Copy of photo identification
- Transcripts
- Cover letter
- Police Clearance

The deadline to submit your application materials is April 5, 2010. For more information call 664-8300.

Materials can be e-mailed to brooke.nevitt@crm.gov.mp or mailed or faxed to:

Coastal Resources Management Office
Attn: Brooke Nevitt
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax (670) 664-8315

Lights off to promote Earth Hour this Saturday

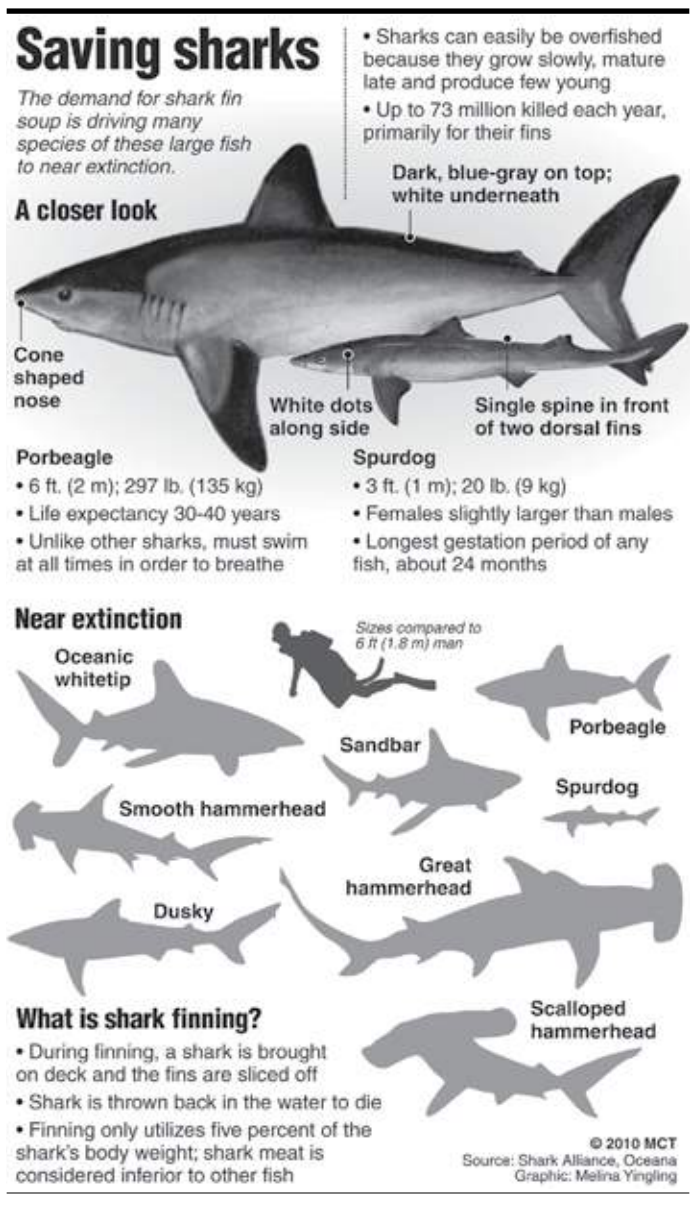
On March 27 at 8:30pm the Division of Environmental Quality encourages CNMI residents and businesses to turn their lights off for one hour, in support of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) sponsored Earth Hour event that seeks to raise awareness and promote global action on climate change.

In partnership with American Memorial Park, the CNMI Earth Hour Team is hosting a candlelit commemoration of the event as the park lights are switched off this Saturday from 8:30pm to 9:30pm. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

In its first Earth Hour event, the CNMI will join more than 115 countries and an expected billion people world wide to raise awareness about the risks and causes of climate change as well as asking for action from world leaders on it.

Being an island nation, the Northern Mariana Islands stand to be greatly affected by rising sea levels, increasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, and increasing occurrences of drought and large storm events. Climate change would impact local economy, infrastructure, and food production. Participation in Earth Hour will allow the CNMI to add its voice to those around the world calling for leaders to make action on climate change a priority.

More information can be found at earthhour.org or at the local CNMI Web site: earthhour-northern-mariana-islands.blogspot.com. ***(PR)***


Saving sharks
The demand for shark fin soup is driving many species of these large fish to near extinction.
• Sharks can easily be overfished because they grow slowly, mature late and produce few young
• Up to 73 million killed each year, primarily for their fins
A closer look
Dark, blue-gray on top; white underneath
Cone shaped nose
White dots along side
Single spine in front of two dorsal fins
Porbeagle
• 6 ft. (2 m); 297 lb. (135 kg)
• Life expectancy 30-40 years
• Unlike other sharks, must swim at all times in order to breathe
Spurdog
• 3 ft. (1 m); 20 lb. (9 kg)
• Females slightly larger than males
• Longest gestation period of any fish, about 24 months
Near extinction
Sizes compared to 6 ft (1.8 m) man
Oceanic whitetip
Sandbar
Porbeagle
Spurdog
Smooth hammerhead
Great hammerhead
Dusky
Scalloped hammerhead
What is shark finning?
• During finning, a shark is brought on deck and the fins are sliced off
• Shark is thrown back in the water to die
• Finning only utilizes five percent of the shark's body weight; shark meat is considered inferior to other fish
© 2010 MCT
Source: Shark Alliance, Oceana
Graphic: Melina Yingling

DO YOUR PART

Get rid of it the green way

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Now is the time of year when many of us finally get around to tackling our biggest cleaning and organizing projects around the house. That might include cleaning out cramped closets, boxing up clothes, and even getting to that cluttered garage. Do Your Part and create a second life for your extra and outgrown stuff and keep it out of the landfill.

There's just something satisfying about a clean closet. As you organize, you might have a lot of old or outgrown clothes you no longer need. An easy thing to do with clothing in good condition is to donate it to Goodwill. You will get a tax deduction and the resale of the items pays for job training programs. Gently worn children's and teen clothing is highly sought after and you can even make a little money by taking it to a re-sale or consignment shop.

For shoes of all sizes, consider donating them to SolesForSouls.org. This organization gives your shoes to kids and adults around the world who need them most. You can find collection sites in hundreds of stores all across the country.

Toys take up a lot of room all over the house. When you're tired of tripping over the ones that no longer get any attention, you have options. Many local charities accept them, as do certain battered women's shelters. Children's hospitals generally won't accept toys unless they're new.

Sometimes when we do a deep clean, we stumble across old cell phones, chargers, mp3 players, and other electronic devices we no longer need. NextWorth.com or Gazelle.com are two websites that will pay you to send in your electronics. That's a great reward for not sending that e-waste to the landfill where toxic chemicals can seep into the soil and water. If you want to get rid of a computer, a good option is to drop it off at Goodwill. Workers there will wipe out any personal information and either resell it or remove the valuable parts for recycling.

If you have plans for a kitchen or bathroom remodel, Habitat for Humanity's Restores can be a valuable resource. Some stores have crews who will disassemble and remove usable cabinets for free. They sell these and other donated household goods to fund building local Habitat for Humanity homes.

Finally, don't forget to get rid of any household hazardous waste that may be lurking in your home or garage. Household hazardous waste includes things like paints, bug killers, antifreeze, most batteries and even used CFLs because they contain mercury. The last thing we should do is put these dangerous items in our trash. Instead, go to Earth911.com and search by zip code to find locations near you that will recycle or dispose of the products safely.

Cleaning and organizing is a chore. But when you Do Your Part with those items you no longer need, you can feel good knowing that you're helping others and protecting the planet.

Terri Bennett is an Earth scientist, syndicated columnist and mom. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com. Get more every day green living tips at www.DoYourPart.com.

Life & Style

By ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Veteran Bettie Archer Johnson, left, 84, breaks out in laughter with oral history interviewer Marcia Williams, 47, at Johnson's home in Novi, Michigan, Friday, June 22, 2007.
PATRICIA BECK/DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Collecting your family's history is a gift for the ages

Few things spur a person to action like the hollow ache of regret, the helpless longing to rewind time and take advantage of what was, in hindsight, a missed opportunity.

So it was when Cynthia Hart, a product designer and artist who lives in New York, lost two dear friends in the same week, one to a heart attack and the other to an unexpectedly short battle with an illness.

"There's an emptiness," Hart said. "The fact that they're gone, irrevocably gone, and all they can say can be gone in an instant. And I just wanted to talk to them."

Hart began interviewing family members, friends, "for a while just about anyone who walked in front of me," she said, on a mission to learn everything she could while she still could. In December, Hart and co-author Lisa Samson published "The Oral History Workshop" (Workman, $12.95), a guide to collecting and preserving people's life stories.

Many people contemplate interviewing their loved ones. Actually doing it is another matter. The task can seem daunting, a little awkward, something to leave for next week, next month or next year.

It doesn't have to be. Here are some guidelines to making oral history easy, from the best questions to ask to the best use of technology.

Hart's advice: "Be relaxed, be kind, be open. And do it now."

TALK TO EVERYBODY

People often want to interview their older relatives or someone they're afraid they're going to lose. But don't count out the younger folk. "Just imagine if you did an interview with a 10-year-old," Hart said. "Twenty years from now, that would be an incredible thing to have."

Ron Baraff, a Pittsburgh-based historian, interviewed his wife over the holidays about her relationship with her grandmother, who had died two years earlier before he could interview her personally.

Baraff also has interviewed his sister about her life in a Tennessee commune, where she went after running away from home as a teen.

"I had never really gotten the story about what happened," said Baraff, 46, director of museums and archives for the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, which promotes the industrial legacy of the southwestern Pennsylvania region.

ASSESS THE COMFORT LEVEL

If you plan to broach touchy subjects, make sure beforehand that your subject is comfortable discussing them, Baraff said. "Emotional tipping points" can cause your subject to break down or shut down, he said.

Also, assess the best environment to keep your interviewee relaxed.

Savannah Ashour had wanted to interview her father for years, but she worried her dad, an immigrant from Egypt whose past she knew little about, would grow uncomfortable or impatient.

So Ashour, who lives in New York, mailed her father, who lives in California, a tiny digital audio recorder and directions to e-mail her the voice files, hoping he'd feel more comfortable doing it in private and on his own time.

Six times over two months, Ashour said, her father sat alone in his garden after work and recorded the story of his life, in chronological order.

"He was incredibly flattered and excited," said Ashour, 31, who was Hart's editor on "The Oral History Workshop." "It's surprising in someone who doesn't normally talk about his personal life."

BE TECH-SMART

Digital technology is easiest and lets you do the most with the material. Try to get the best digital recording device you can afford, said Doug Boyd, director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky.

Avoid going to an office supply store, Boyd said, as typically the recorders sold there aren't optimized for preservation. Instead, try a music store, such as Guitar Center (guitarcenter.com), or online at Sweetwater.com. Look for recorders with good quality microphone preamps and that will record in standard formats (.wav).

Among Boyd's favorite audio recorders are Sony PCM-M10 ($200-$300); Tascam DR-100 ($300-$400) and Marantz PMD-661 ($500-$600).

Most important, Boyd said, be sure to practice using the device before you conduct the interview, including placement of the microphone for best sound. And if you can't afford top-of-the-line, don't sweat it.

"Life is short, so record with whatever you can record with," said Boyd, who conducts the technology workshops for the Oral History Association (oralhistory.org).

MCT
While barely able to speak, Flornece Tarlecki can remember. And volunteer Jane Austin can help her put the memories of a lifetime in writing.

ASK GOOD QUESTIONS

Hart advises beginning with some of the questions that you feel are most significant, because you don't want to run out of time.

But sometimes you need to ease in.

Among the hundreds of suggested questions in "The Oral History Workshop" is a list of ice-breakers, which includes Hart's favorite: "What was the best day of your life?"

The book also has a list of 20 all-around great questions that can yield revealing responses, such as, "What's the biggest mistake you ever made?" and "What makes you want to dance?"

Let your subject ramble, and don't get caught up in making sure everything is factually accurate.

Sometimes people don't realize how meaningful a question might be.

Meredith Sullins, a 26-year-old nursing assistant who lives in Nashville, interviewed her 87-year-old grandfather last year as part of StoryCorps' National Day of Listening (nationaldayoflistening.org), which encourages people to set aside an hour the day after Thanksgiving to interview a loved one. StoryCorps (storycorps.org) is a national nonprofit oral history project.

Sullins, who recorded her grandfather on her iPhone with an app called QuickVoice, said she was surprised how affected she was when she asked him to recall his favorite memory of her as a child. Her grandfather told a story of taking Sullins, then 2 or 3, to a Nashville theme park, where he won her enough stuffed animals to fill up his car.

"I didn't really remember that he won them all," Sullins said, her voice choking with emotion. "It was special to me."

SIGN A RELEASE

It may seem strange to have grandma sign a release, but it's best to have a written agreement on how the interview will be used—for broadcast, publication, archive, or just to distribute among family and friends.

The No. 1 rule: Honor the wishes of the interviewee.

COPY IMMEDIATELY

Upload your digital files as soon as possible and save them to an external and/or virtual hard drive. Make at least three CDs or DVDs of the interview: one to give to your interviewee, one to listen to, one to store away as a "preservation" copy, Hart said.

Don't rely on your digital recording device or computer alone to store your interview, as they can too easily be lost, stolen or erased.

SPREAD THE LOVE

So ... what to do with it? The possibilities are many:

Transcribe the interviews, make CDs or DVDs to give as gifts or slip into scrapbooks, make video or audio montages, upload to YouTube, Facebook or a family Web site (if you have permission).

Many people use iTunes to manage their oral history collections, Boyd said. Helpful editing software includes Peak, Audacity and Sound Forge.

Consider working with your local or state historical society and submitting the materials to an archive.

Or you can do what Jean Wilcox Hibben does.

Wilcox Hibben, a California genealogist, performs impersonations of her ancestors, using first-person narratives and period dress, at genealogical and historical societies. She weaves what she's culled from oral histories and documents with the historical events of the time and a little creative license.

"I think it's neat to see the people come alive," she said.

Bowersox again wows 'American Idol' judges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" finalist Crystal Bowersox is on a roll.

The 24-year-old musician and single mother of Toledo, Ohio, earned the judges' highest praise on the Fox singing competition Tuesday for her traditional take on Janis Joplin's "Me and Bobby McGee"—all from a homey carpet rolled out on the "Idol" stage.

Simon Cowell told her he wouldn't have changed a thing, but the other judges wanted a bigger reaction.

"These people love you," pleaded DeGeneres. "Take it all in and respond."

Paige Miles was a long way from getting any love from the judges, who were equally against the smiley 24-year-old preschool teacher from Houston. Randy Jackson said her rendition of Mariah Carey's "Against All Odds" was "honestly terrible" while all DeGeneres could compliment was Miles' ability to stay standing on the stage in a pair of high heels.

"You didn't fall down," said DeGeneres, "and that's a good thing."

Also slipping even further out of favor with the judging panel was Tim Urban, the shaggy-haired 20-year-old college student from Duncanville, Texas. He punctuated his performance of Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" by sliding across the stage on his knees.

AP

In this publicity image released by Fox, contestant Crystal Bowersox, of Elliston, Ohio, performs on "American Idol," on Tuesday, March 16, 2010.

DioGuardi and DeGeneres compared his acrobatic exploits to a bad "High School Musical" audition, while Jackson declared: "The dopest thing that you did was the slide, dude."

Several singers, however, stayed in the panel's good graces, including 23-year-old Lee Dewyze of Mount Prospect, Ill., with The Box Tops' "The Letter;" 16-year-old Aaron Kelly of Sonestown, Pa., with Aerosmith's "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing;" and 27-year-old Casey James of Fort Worth, Texas, with Huey Lewis and The News' "The Power Of Love."

"You're just ready to make an album," DioGuardi informed James. The judges again voiced their frustration with 24-year-old musician Andrew Garcia of Moreno Valley, Calif., after he turned in an awkward rendition of Marvin Gaye's "Heard It Through the Grapevine." They also weren't fans of a sexed-up theatrical version of Linda Ronstadt's "You're No Good" by 23-year-old waitress Didi Benami of Los Angeles.

"It was like a musical," said Cowell, "the bad part of a musical."

Unless the judges decide to save a singer, another finalist will be eliminated Wednesday based on viewer votes.

AP

In this Jan. 2, 2007 file photo, U.S. talk show queen Oprah Winfrey, second left, and students are seen during the opening of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in the small town of Henley-on-Klip, South Africa.

Oprah Winfrey settles headmistress' Pa. lawsuit

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Oprah Winfrey has settled a defamation lawsuit filed by a headmistress she had accused of performing poorly at her South African girls school, where some students claimed they were abused, lawyers said Tuesday.

The lawsuit by former headmistress Nomvuyo Mzamane claimed Winfrey defamed her in remarks made in the wake of the 2007 sex-abuse scandal at the school. Mzamane said she had trouble finding a job after Winfrey stated she had "lost confidence" in her and was "cleaning house from top to bottom."

A trial had been set to start next week in federal court in Philadelphia. Winfrey and several schoolgirls had been expected to testify.

A joint statement released late Tuesday by lawyers for both sides said Winfrey and Mzamane met to resolve their differences.

"The two parties met woman to woman without their lawyers and are happy that they could resolve this dispute peacefully to their mutual satisfaction," the statement said.

Winfrey was visiting her school last week when U.S. District Judge Eduardo Robreno refused to dismiss the lawsuit, concluding Mzamane had presented enough evidence to go to trial. Court papers suggest Mzamane is again working at a school in Africa, but a Winfrey spokeswoman declined to say if the meeting took place during Winfrey's trip.

The parties do not plan to discuss terms of the settlement, according to the spokeswoman, who works with Winfrey's production company, Harpo Productions, which also was a defendant in the suit.

A dorm matron at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls has been charged in South Africa with abusing six students. Winfrey has called the allegations crushing given her own stated history of childhood sexual abuse.

The dorm matron, Tiny Virginia Makopo, has pleaded not guilty to 14 charges.

Mzamane claimed that she was never told of the sexual abuse. However, Winfrey's lawyers said in their pretrial memo this month that Mzamane failed to discipline Makopo despite her history of run-ins with students and fellow staff.

One of Mzamane's lawyers, Timothy McGowan, did not immediately return a call seeking comment Tuesday.

Mzamane, born in Lesotho, formerly worked at the private Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia and was living in the city when she sued two years ago. She earned $150,000 a year as Winfrey's headmistress.

Winfrey had planned to defend the case on free speech and other grounds, arguing she merely voiced her opinions.

Mzamane's lawyers, who noted Winfrey's huge media reach, contended listeners would think the remarks were based on facts she had gleaned from the school's internal investigation. Winfrey, as a named defendant, would have had to attend the trial each day, and courthouse staff had been preparing for a media onslaught.

In court papers, Winfrey said she had planned to hire nurses to serve as dorm matrons for the 150 seventh- and eighth-grade girls who were selected from impoverished backgrounds to attend her school. Mzamane instead hired eight young women from a local company called Party Design, she said.

"These young women were later found to be totally unqualified to handle the position, something Ms. Mzamane had been warned about," Winfrey's lawyers wrote.

During the school year, Makopo attacked another dorm parent, injured three people while driving a golf cart after a champagne party at Mzamane's home and retaliated rather than apologize to girls who complained of mistreatment, while Mzamane did little or nothing, Winfrey's lawyers had alleged in their trial memo.

The school now has about 330 students.

The Wilhelm Scream makes it into 'Iron Man 2'

LOS ANGELES—On Sunday, "Iron Man 2" director Jon Favreau tweeted, "The Wilhelm Scream is in."

It was one small sentence for Tweetdom, but one loud message for sound geeks.

The message means "Iron Man 2" will arrive in theaters on May 7 with one of the most storied sound effects in Hollywood: a single-second, high-pitched shriek from the 1950s known to sound supervisors as "The Wilhelm Scream."

The pained wail has appeared in more than 140 movies, according to Hollywood historian and sound editor Steve Lee, who maintains a list of them at hollywoodlost andfound.net/wilhelm. Among the films: "Star Wars," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Batman Returns," "Reservoir Dogs," "Toy Story," "Spider-Man," "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," "Hellboy" and "Poltergeist."

How did this quirky tradition get started? According to Lee's account, it began as a standard effect for a 1951 movie titled "Distant Drums" starring Gary Cooper. The film is set in Florida in 1840 and the sound was used when a soldier is bitten by an alligator while wading through the Everglades.

For two years, the sound clip sat in silence in the Warner Bros. archives, until it was used again in a movie called "The Charge at Feather River." This is when the sound acquired its famous name: A soldier named Pvt. Wilhelm lets loose with the scream when he takes an arrow in the leg.

The Wilhelm Scream really caught fire with legendary sound supervisor Ben Burtt, who created the sound effects for "Star Wars" and won Oscars for his work on "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial" and "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." Burtt began using the sound snippet as a kind of calling card, and then other sound specialists, as an inside joke, found excuses to sneak it into their projects.

In Loving Memory

†JESUS MIYASAKI BABAUTA

Born on December 24, 1933 and was called by his Creator to his eternal rest on Sunday, March 21, 2010

In his new life, he now joins his:

WIFE : †Petra Reyes Babauta
PARENTS : †Juan Cruz & †Maria Miyasaki Babauta
PARENTS IN LAW : †Jose Cruz & †Rufina Camacho Delos Reyes
SON : †William Reyes Babauta

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his children:

Juan R. and Loretta Babauta & Children
Joseph R. and Lydia A. Babauta & Children
Oscar R. and Lorraine W. Babauta & Children
Donald R. Babauta & Children
Diego R. and Dolorina J. Babauta & Children
Patricia B. and John A. Camacho & Children
Terry B. and Frank B. Castro & Children
Franklin R. and Celina R. Babauta and Children
Anthony R. and Meliza DLG. Babauta & Children
Jesse R. Babauta

†Jesus is also survived by his brothers, sisters, in-laws and families.

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated at San Roque Church at 6:00pm followed by Holy Rosary.

On Monday, March 29, 2010 at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel in Beach Road Garapan to San Roque Church. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Interment service will be at San Roque Cemetery.

Si Yuus Ma'ase. Please join us in prayers.

THE FAMILY

O'Donnell looking to come back to daytime TV

NEW YORK (AP)—Rosie O'Donnell plans an "uplifting" new television talk show for launch next year that aims squarely at the audience Oprah Winfrey is leaving behind when her show ends.

O'Donnell won six Daytime Emmys in six years as host of an entertainment-oriented talk show that ended in 2002, but is planning something different this time—a single-topic aspirational show that sounds much like what Winfrey is doing right now.

Her success depends on convincing viewers that she's not the polarizing figure she's often seemed in the ensuing years, whether she can set up distribution outside of the traditional studio system and getting television executives to bet on something new at a time they're struggling for money.

"I would like this show to make a difference in people's lives, to be real, uplifting, authentic and focus on life, love and laughter," O'Donnell, 48, said.

Scott Carlin and Dick Robertson, two former Warner Bros. syndication executives who helped launch O'Donnell's first show, said they approached her about getting back into daytime TV shortly after Winfrey's announcement. The three of them are setting up their own company to produce and distribute the show, instead of getting together with a larger studio. O'Donnell said she wanted to "build on what Oprah began and excelled at for 25 years, in my own style and with new adaptations and ideas."

To describe the program, the executives said one idea would be to invite Sandra Bullock on at the time of "The Blind Side" movie release and use it as a starting point to talk about the foster care system. O'Donnell told "Entertainment Tonight" that, as a mother of teenagers, she could do a show about how to care for them.

AP

In this March 22, 2010 file photo, Rosie O'Donnell arrives to a HBO screening of "A Mothers Courage: Talking Back To Autism" in New York.

By the description, it seems O'Donnell is looking to distinguish herself from Ellen DeGeneres, whose lighter, more entertainment-oriented show is widely considered the most likely beneficiary of Winfrey's absence.

"It's not clear to me what a single-topic show—life, laughter, love?—really is," said Bill Carroll, an expert on the syndication market for Katz Television. "Is she attempting to do Oprah? And I don't know how Rosie doing Oprah would work."

While O'Donnell's first show was wildly popular at first, its ratings dropped by 47 percent by its last year. Her controversial year on "The View," and willingness to speak her mind politically, turned off some viewers and television executives, and may give her a handicap to overcome.

Carlin and Robertson noted the show is not political. She was hired by "The View" to be outspoken, Robertson said.

"This is not a woman shouting from mountaintops," Carlin said. "She's among the people."

Some television stations have already made plans for the hour Winfrey is leaving, with expansion of local news a popular—and cheap—option. Carroll said O'Donnell may have to settle for different time periods in order to prove herself again.

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Repo Men

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:20	9:45
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Jude Law, Forest Whitaker
Science Fiction • Rated R

Synopsis

Writers Eric Garcia and Garrett Lerner team with director Miguel Sapochnik to adapt Garcia's novel about a repo man named Remy whose body has been constructed almost entirely of artificial organs. When Remy (Jude Law) fails to keep up on payments for his recent heart transplant, his former partner vows to take back the organ by force if necessary. Meanwhile, Remy finds an unexpected ally in the form of his long-lost wife, Beth (Sonia Braga), who has also been retrofitted with numerous artificial organs.

Diary of Wimpy Kid

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Zachary Gordon, Steven Zahn
Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Hotel for Dogs' director Thor Freudenthal helms the adaptation of Jeff Kinney's acclaimed Diary of a Wimpy Kid comics with this Fox 2000 production. Zachary Gordon starring as the titular character, with Steve Zahn, Rachael Harris, Robert Capron, and Devon Bostick filling out the rest of the cast.

★ ★ ★

The Green Zone

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear
Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

United 93 director Paul Greengrass explores the aftermath of the Iraq invasion in this feature adaptation of author Rajiv Chandrasekaran's literary exposé of the same name. A one-time Baghdad bureau chief of the Washington Post, Chandrasekaran was present as American forces attempted to set up a provisional government on the grounds surrounding former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's opulent palace. The resulting governing body, according to critics, existed in a bubble so far removed from the grim realities of the Iraq War that it failed to properly assess the needs of the people.

Remember Me

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Robert Pattinson, Emilie de Ravin
Drama • Rated PG 13

She's Out Of My League

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve
Comedy • Rated R

Alice in Wonderland

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway
Fantasy • Rated PG

Dear John

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
Drama • Rated PG 13

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Jennifer Love Hewitt shoots Cupid, offers advice

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Love Hewitt had more than a breakup on her hands when she recently split from her "Ghost Whisperer" co-star, Jamie Kennedy. She was about to embark on a tour promoting her new book about relationships.

"It wasn't ideal timing," the 31-year-old actress admits, laughing. "Here's my relationship book and I'm single."

Still, she has gone ahead with the publicity tour for "The Day I Shot Cupid: My Name is Jennifer Love Hewitt and I'm a Love-Aholic." And she's embracing one of its lessons: Allow yourself 72 hours to wallow after a breakup. Then move forward.

"Put your big girl pants on and move on," Hewitt tells The Associated Press. "Seventy-two hours is an appropriate time. After that you start to smell and your friends don't want to talk to you. ... It doesn't mean it fixes your feelings or takes away the sadness. You should just start to go, 'I'm OK.'"

The book also includes these tips: Accept that men will always check out other women. Guys hate to spoon. And one shouldn't be overzealous with a new significant other.

There's even a section written by Kennedy himself, who assures women that most guys like their girls curvy, not stick-thin.

Hewitt includes personal anecdotes, such as when she made his-and-her toiletry kits for a guy she was dating. She thought it was cute; he found it scary.

AP

In this photo provided by NBC Universal, actress Jennifer Love Hewitt appears on NBC's "Today" show to talk about her new book "The Day I Shot Cupid", in New York, on Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

The book also sets the record straight on parts of Hewitt's relationship history, which has been played out in the press.

Discovery's 'Life' catches eye of TV viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—The Discovery Channel's latest nature project, "Life," debuted with the network's best ratings for a new series in a decade.

The series, four years in the making, shows animal footage in eye-catching high definition. It had 11.8 million viewers for its first episode at 8 p.m. Sunday. The second episode immediately followed and reached 11.5 million viewers, the Nielsen Co. said.

That exceeded Discovery's popular "Planet Earth" series from three years ago and outpaced the broadcast networks, except for the CBS Sunday lineup. Within that CBS lineup, it's becoming apparent that viewers like seeing bosses put in their place. "Undercover Boss" is emerging as a hit. It was the fifth most popular show on the air last week, with 14.47 million viewers, Nielsen said.

For the week, CBS averaged 10.8 million viewers (6.7 rating, 12 share) and Fox had 9.2 million (5.5, 9), with the two networks in a dead heat for the lead among the key 18-to-49-year-old demographic. NBC averaged 6.1 million viewers (3.9, 7), ABC had 5.4 million (3.5, 6), the CW had 1.8 million (1.2, 2) and ION Television had 1.1 million (0.7, 1).

Among the Spanish-language networks, Univision led with a 3.2 million viewer prime-time average (1.6, 3), Telemundo had 1.1 million (0.6, 1), TeleFutura had 900,000 (0.5, 1) and Azteca had 200,000 (0.1, 0).

NBC's "Nightly News" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 8.1 million viewers (5.5, 12). ABC's "World News" was second with 7.2 million (4.9, 11), and the "CBS Evening News" had 5.2 million viewers (3.5, 7).

A ratings point represents 1,149,000 households, or 1 percent of the nation's estimated 114.9 million TV homes. The share is the percentage of in-use televisions tuned to a given show.

For the week of March 15-21, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: "American Idol" (Tuesday), Fox, 22.91 million; "American Idol" (Wednesday), Fox, 20.51 million; "NCIS," CBS, 18 million; "NCIS: Los Angeles," CBS, 15.1 million; "Undercover Boss," CBS, 14.47 million; "The Good Wife," CBS, 13.4 million; "60 Minutes," CBS, 13.28 million; "Two and a Half Men," CBS, 12.7 million; "Amazing Race 16," CBS, 11.99 million; "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 11.67 million.

4M 'New Moon' DVDs sold on 1st weekend

LOS ANGELES—The Twi-hards have struck again.

Fans of "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" snatched up 4 million DVDs this past weekend after it went on sale Saturday, beating the launch of the original "Twilight" last year, which sold 3.8 million units on its first two days.

The figure included discs sold directly to consumers, not rentals, digital downloads or video-on-demand.

The difference between the movies in DVD sales is substantially less than at the box office. "New Moon" grossed $296.6 million domestically last year, compared to $192.8 million for the original "Twilight" in 2008.

Given the 13 percent decline in U.S. DVD revenue last year, however, gaining any ground is something of a victory for independent studio Summit Entertainment.

"Twilight" went on to become the bestselling DVD of 2009, moving 9.2 million units. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Robin Wright, Richard Schiff set for B'way debuts

NEW YORK (AP)—Robin Wright and Richard Schiff will make their Broadway debut next season in a revival of Lanford Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Talley's Folly."

Producers Phil Monat, T. Richard Fitzgerald and Randall L. Wreghitt announced Tuesday that the production will open in spring 2011 at a theater to be announced. Marshall Mason, who originally directed the play some 30 years ago, will direct. Mason also directed such Wilson plays as "Fifth of July" and "Angels Fall."

Wright is best known for her roles in such films as "Forrest Gump," "The Princess Bride" and "Hurlyburly." Schiff played communications director Toby Zeigler in "The West Wing" on NBC.

AP

In this Oct. 19, 2009 file photo, Robin Wright arrives for ELLE Magazine?s 16th Annual Women in Hollywood Tribute in Los Angeles.

Danny Glover tries to save Hugo Boss jobs in Ohio

BROOKLYN, Ohio (AP)—Actor and activist Danny Glover has offered hugs and moral support to Cleveland-area workers at a men's suit plant that faces a shutdown next month with the loss of 375 jobs.

Workers at the Hugo Boss plant in Brooklyn, Ohio, cheered as the star of the "Lethal Weapon" action movies toured the operation Tuesday.

Glover later held a news conference and appealed to Germany's Hugo Boss AG to reverse its shutdown decision. Glover led a boycott of Hugo Boss formal wear at the Academy Awards earlier this month.

The company says its shutdown decision stands. The company says the union representing workers rejected concessions at the plant, which it says isn't globally competitive.

AP

Actor Danny Glover talks to reporters after meeting workers at the Hugo Boss plant in Brooklyn, Ohio, Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

Gospel, blues artist Marva Wright dead at 62

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—New Orleans blues and gospel singer Marva Wright died Tuesday at age 62, her former manager said.

Adam Shipley confirmed that Wright died of complications from a stroke she suffered last year.

She sang traditional jazz and gospel standards but was better known for sultry, sometimes bawdy blues songs. Among her best known songs were "Heartbreakin' Woman" and "Mama, He Treats Your Daughter Mean."

She released a series of albums on local and international record labels, and frequently performed in Europe and at blues festivals around the country. With her band, the BMWs, she drew large crowds for performances at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

As a child, Wright listened to her mother sing and play piano at church. Among her childhood memories were visits to Chicago, the adopted home of New Orleans gospel great Mahalia Jackson, who had grown up with Wright's mother.

"My mother would go to the national Baptist convention," Ms. Wright once said, according to an account in The Times-Picayune newspaper. "When it convened in Chicago, Mahalia would say, 'Girl, you don't need to get no hotel. Stay with me.' That's what my mother would do. I met Mahalia when I was 9 years old, but I never realized she was that popular until I got older."

But Wright didn't start singing professionally until she was almost 40, according to a biography on her Web site.

Wright was hospitalized last June after suffering a serious stroke following a gig at the CoCo Club on Bourbon Street. Relatives said then that she had just recovered from an earlier, less serious stroke.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Butch Cassidy sequel filming in Bolivia; no 'Kid'

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—The 1969 movie classic "Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid" ends with neither of the famous outlaws appearing to survive a 1908 shootout with Bolivian soldiers. But Butch at least will ride again in a film entitled "Blackthorn" that begins shooting in Bolivia next month. American actor and playwright Sam Shepard plays the real-life Robert LeRoy Parker, who led the Hole in the Wall Gang. Cesar Perez is the director of Bolivia's national cinema council. He said Tuesday that Spaniard Mateo Gil is directing the story of Cassidy's attempt to return to the United States. Gil is known for his screenplay of "The Sea Inside." The new film plot has Cassidy feeling compelled to commit just one more robbery before he can retire.

Franken enlists 'SNL' star to raise campaign funds

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Live from Minneapolis, it's Al Franken and "Saturday Night Live" star Seth Meyers! Minnesota's junior Democratic senator spent much of the 2008 campaign downplaying his years on NBC's sketch comedy show. But he's embracing those roots this weekend with a fundraiser for his political action committee featuring Meyers, host of the "Weekend Update" segment and the show's head writer. Franken was a writer and performer on the show from 1975 to 1980 and again from 1985 to 1995. He grew up in Minnesota and returned in 2005, where he went on to successfully challenge incumbent Republican Sen. Norm Coleman. Tickets to Saturday's event at the Carlyle condominium tower are $50. Proceeds will benefit Franken's Midwest Values PAC, which is raising money to support Democratic U.S. House and Senate candidates in the November election.

Mother struggles to love the daughter she dislikes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I can't stand my 10-year-old daughter. I was an 18-year-old single mother when she was born. I find her ugly and annoying. Everyone tells me how "sweet" and "pretty" she is, but I can't see it. I dread when she comes home from school. I am not physically abusive to her—I would never do that. But I can be verbally abusive, and I know I need to stop. She just makes me so mad.

I am now married with two more kids (boys), and I adore them. What's wrong with me? How can I fix this? I'm afraid it's too late. I have no spiritual adviser to talk to, and I can't afford to speak to a professional counselor.

ANONYMOUS IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR ANONYMOUS: The circumstances of your daughter's birth were very different from those of your sons. When you look at her, you may be reminded of a chapter in your life you would prefer to forget. How sad for both of you.

The way you treat her, particularly in relation to her half-brothers—will affect the way she perceives herself for the rest of her life. People whose parents treat them as unlovable often regard themselves as not "measuring up," and it can cause self-esteem problems that last a lifetime.

Ordinarily, I would encourage you to seek low-cost therapy through your county department of mental health for the sake of both you and your daughter. If that isn't possible, then I advise you to hold your tongue, control your temper and compel yourself to show your daughter approval and affection every day until it becomes a habit or she's old enough to leave—whichever comes first.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My workplace has instituted "casual dress Friday," where everyone is supposed to make a donation to a charity selected by a different employee each fortnight. While this is nice in theory, I often find that I don't wish to donate to the chosen charity because I don't agree with its ethics or its methods.

I give regularly to charities of my choice, which I have researched beforehand, but have never been one to donate automatically to every passing collection.

How do I bow out gracefully when the collection tin comes around? I have tried to explain to my co-workers why I don't support a particular charity and simply say I have chosen not to participate. I am met with blank stares and demands that I explain myself, and lectures about why I must "support the team."

I don't feel my colleagues have any right to tell me what I should do with my money, but they obviously disagree and I am finding the situation very uncomfortable. Any suggestions?

FEELING AWKWARD IN AUSTRALIA

DEAR FEELING AWKWARD: The policy you describe seems more like "friendly" extortion than real charitable giving. (Is there some kind of contest going on between teams to see who can raise the most money?) While I'm all for casual Fridays, the policy of pressuring people to give strikes me as one that should be modified or done away with completely. That's why I think you should discuss your feelings with your supervisor or the head of the department and go on record that you prefer to give your money to causes you have researched and with which you identify. If that doesn't help, you may be working for the wrong company. Sorry, mate.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

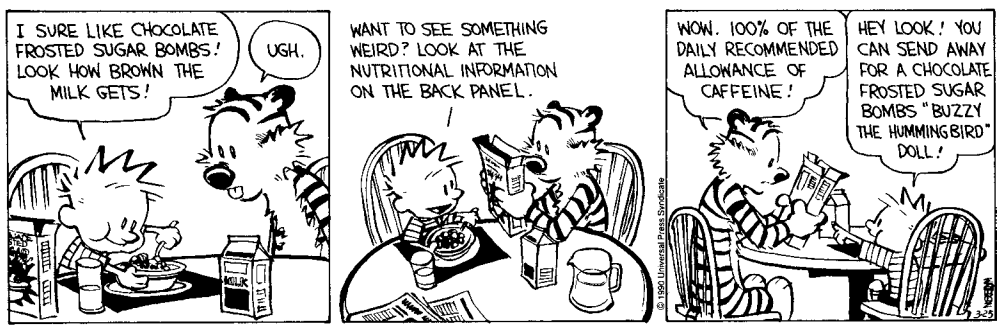
■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I SURE LIKE CHOCOLATE FROSTED SUGAR BOMBS! LOOK HOW BROWN THE MILK GETS!
UGH.
WANT TO SEE SOMETHING WEIRD? LOOK AT THE NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BACK PANEL.
WOW. 100% OF THE DAILY RECOMMENDED ALLOWANCE OF CAFFEINE!
HEY LOOK! YOU CAN SEND AWAY FOR A CHOCOLATE FROSTED SUGAR BOMBS "BUZZY THE HUMMINGBIRD" DOLL!
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3-25

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

MY BROTHER DOES MOST OF THE BARKING AROUND HERE
OOOH, I'M SO AFRAID
JIM DAVIS 3-25
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BARK! BARK! BARK!
BY ANY CHANCE, IS ONE OF YOU ADOPTED?
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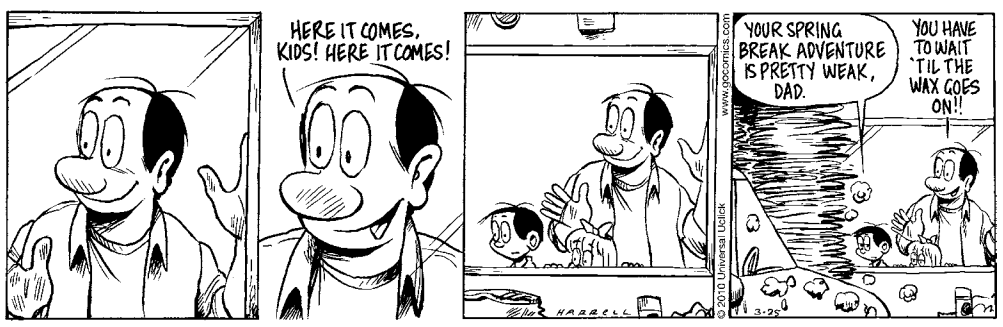
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HERE IT COMES, KIDS! HERE IT COMES!
YOUR SPRING BREAK ADVENTURE IS PRETTY WEAK, DAD.
YOU HAVE TO WAIT 'TIL THE WAX GOES ON!!
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www.gocomics.com
HARRELL
3-25

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M CALLING OUR WAITER OVER.
PLEASE DON'T. YOU ALWAYS COMPLAIN ABOUT THE STUPIDEST THINGS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
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3-25-c
Glenn McCoy
WHAT NOW?
DO YOU HAVE ANY LESS SALTY SALT?
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Ladder component
5 Author Weldon
8 Nowhere near
12 Between ports
13 Cry of revelation
14 Relocate
15 Lima's land
16 Shaft of light
17 Raised
18 Soothing lozenge
20 Lustful leerers
22 Coop denizen
23 Conger, e.g.
24 News
27 Collection plate contribution
32 As well
33 Tic-tac-toe win
34 Actress Farrow
35 Sieve
38 Pauley Perrette's "NCIS" role
39 "Nightmare on — Street"
40 Listending abbr.
42 Agree to
45 Wes Craven's genre
49 Applaud
50 Chickenking link
52 11-Down's state
53 Netting
54 Corral
55 Transmitted
56 Small salamanders
57 Blue
58 Benefit

DOWN
1 Engrossed
2 Tech support caller
3 Infamous fiddler
4 Cowboy of the pampas
5 Morning
6 Cry of discovery
7 Toy on a string
8 Spy novel author Eric
9 Wing, for example
10 State with certainty
11 Great American Ball Park team
19 That guy
21 "Golly!"
24 With 25-Down, "— Unusual"
25 See 24-Down
26 Prediction
28 Enemy
29 Tennis stroke
30 Pen point
31 Festive
36 Hebrew letters
37 Mischievous tyke
38 Not this way
41 Infinitive introducer
42 Pinnacle
43 Staff leader?
44 Spigots
46 Comical Caroline
47 Pig's comment
48 Memory method
51 Meadow

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	M	P	S	■	T	E	A	■	C	H	A	R
C	O	A	T	■	O	A	F	■	R	A	G	A
E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A	■	A	B	O	Y
R	E	E	V	E	■	■	R	A	V	A	G	E
■	■	■	E	X	P	O	■	S	E	N	■	■
J	O	I	N	■	O	B	O	E	■	E	E	L
U	R	N	■	O	P	E	R	A	■	R	O	O
T	E	C	■	V	E	S	T	■	B	A	N	G
■	■	A	C	E	■	E	S	S	E	■	■	■
L	A	M	E	N	T	■	■	■	E	A	R	T	H
A	B	E	D	■	A	L	O	E	V	E	R	A
S	E	R	A	■	P	E	A	■	E	D	I	T
S	T	A	R	■	S	I	R	■	R	O	P	E

Yesterday's answer 3-25

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21				
■	■	■	22			■	■	23			■	■
24	25	26		■	27	28	29				30	31
32			■	■	33			■	■	34		
35			36	37				■	38			
■	■	39			■	■	40	41		■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49				■	50	51		■	52			
53					54				55			
56				■	57			■	58			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marcia Cross, 48; Sarah Jessica Parker, 45; Elton John, 63; Aretha Franklin, 68

Happy Birthday: This is a year jampacked with opportunity and fast-paced deals. Prepare to give your all to whatever your cause, project, plan or goal. Be self-assured, focused and ready to counteract any pitfall that stands in your way. Personal relationships will get a long, overdue shakeup that will resolve pending problems. Your numbers are 4, 6, 15, 17, 23, 33, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Love, socializing or networking will bring you the most satisfaction and can enhance your relationships with the people important in your life. You will discover something quite profitable by joining forces with someone able to contribute equally. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A quiet, secretive approach will allow you to do your research so you have your facts and figures ready should you be faced with resistance. Focus on yourself and your surroundings. Don't let an emotional issue turn into an argument. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone may be secretive. Don't let your suspicious attitude cause you any grief. Go about your business and you will soon find out what's going on. Short trips will bring about a chance to get ahead. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take any opportunity you get to clear up odds and ends personally and professionally. The less you leave unfinished, the better you will feel about your future plans. Don't hesitate to try something totally different. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make enjoyment your prime concern. Love is in the stars and can help you make decisions regarding your future location and residence. A change will allow you greater opportunities and will open the door to all sorts of interesting activities. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let a financial expense that belongs to someone else end up coming out of your pocket. Getting involved in a creative hobby will lead to new friendships. Offer suggestions to a group that shares your mindset. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll have plenty to mull over, especially when it comes to personal and professional dealings. Don't let emotions influence what you decide to do. Base your choices on what suits you long-term. Organization and good planning is all it will take to be successful. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You may anger someone if you have to make a change of plans. An old friend or lover will make you consider changes that will affect your home, life and status. Before you make a decision, evaluate how it will affect your lifestyle. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Bring on the good times but don't shun someone in the process. If you leave anyone out, you will pay dearly for your mistake. Get approval before you make a change that will upset your home, family or friends. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll face some problems while traveling. Don't mess with authoritative figures that can make your life miserable. An emotional situation can be avoided if you spend time nurturing a relationship that you care about. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Go back to some of the people you have worked with in the past and you will discover new opportunities. Your love life will pick up if you share your experiences and offer suggestions. Taking care of personal obligations is a must if you want to start fresh. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Incorporate some of the new skills you have picked up while researching or watching how someone has turned a hobby into a service. Being proactive will draw greater interest to what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are willing, ready and able to take control. You set goals and work relentlessly until you have accomplished what you set out to do. You are a leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8					4
				1		9		
			2		4		3	
1		4		9		6		
	3						8	
		5		8		7		9
	9		3		5			
		1		4				
3					2			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	6	4	9	5	3	7	1
1	4	5	8	3	7	2	6	9
7	3	9	1	6	2	8	5	4
6	5	7	9	1	8	4	2	3
4	1	3	2	7	6	9	8	5
8	9	2	5	4	3	6	1	7
5	7	8	3	2	4	1	9	6
9	2	4	6	5	1	7	3	8
3	6	1	7	8	9	5	4	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OIL-SHEENED FLOODWATER **Solution: 4 letters**

E	O	D	E	T	E	C	T	A	B	L	E	H	V	S
E	C	A	F	R	U	S	S	E	N	K	C	I	H	T
V	E	N	E	S	A	E	L	E	R	A	S	O	R	N
O	A	E	A	O	D	E	N	S	E	I	R	E	E	E
M	N	N	C	R	U	D	E	B	B	E	M	M	S	B
E	S	V	Ⓒ	Ⓞ	Ⓐ	Ⓣ	R	L	C	M	M	U	I	R
R	G	I	O	T	L	E	E	I	I	O	A	U	D	O
E	I	R	L	S	H	O	P	L	F	S	R	C	U	S
V	R	O	O	I	E	D	G	P	M	T	I	A	A	K
O	E	N	R	M	A	N	A	Y	A	I	N	V	L	I
C	Y	M	A	G	V	A	T	E	E	S	E	O	U	M
E	A	E	E	P	Y	L	E	U	R	O	W	L	S	M
R	L	N	M	I	N	J	E	C	T	P	A	U	T	I
G	T	T	L	L	E	W	H	P	S	E	S	M	E	N
S	R	I	O	V	R	E	S	E	R	D	H	E	R	G

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Agents, Appearance, Beach, Coast, Coat, Color, Coral, Crude, Dense, Deposits, Detectable, Drift, Ecology, Environment, Gleam, Glimmer, Heavy, Inject, Land, Layer, Luster, Marine, Mist, Ocean, Recover, Release, Remove, Reservoir, Residual, Rigs, Sheet, Shore, Skimming, Sorbents, Spread, Stream, Surface, Thickness, Vacuum, Visible, Volume, Wash, Well

Yesterday's Answer: Breakfast

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGE
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's s
Fitial: Ombudsman shouldn't accommodate 'overstayers'
10 DAYS to go before Christmas
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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SUBTRACT
CHIN

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Find today's solution in this section

Prosecutors ask for 3-month sentence for Arenas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Prosecutors are portraying Gilbert Arenas as a thuggish intimidator who tried to pressure his teammate into a cover-up, as they argue for a three-month jail sentence for the NBA star on a weapons charge.

Arenas' lawyer says his client is "a peaceful man" who played a misguided prank and has already been severely punished for bringing guns into the Washington Wizards locker room. He says the more fitting punishment is probation and community service.

Both sides staked out their positions Tuesday in court filings, ahead of Friday's sentencing in D.C. Superior Court.

Arenas pleaded guilty Jan. 15 to one felony count of violating the District of Columbia's strict gun laws, a charge stemming from a locker-room confrontation that followed a card-game dispute between Arenas and teammate Javaris Crittenton during a Dec. 19 flight to Washington. Authorities say Arenas threatened to shoot Crittenton in the face and blow up his car. Two days later, Arenas brought four guns to the locker room and put them in a chair by Crittenton's locker with a sign saying, "Pick 1." Crittenton then retrieved his own gun and showed it to Arenas.

Prosecutors wrote that the locker-room incident "was not a spur-of-the-moment joke," but rather a calculated attempt by Arenas to defend his supremacy among his peers.

"In the confined quarters of an airplane, a younger, junior player disrespected the defendant in front of the entire team," Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh wrote. "On a team where the defendant is the highest-paid player, was the face of the franchise, and is known for particularly outrageous conduct, the defendant believed he had no choice but to respond."

In arguing for jail time, Kavanaugh noted that Arenas lied repeatedly about why the guns were in the locker room. Arenas first claimed he brought them to work because he wanted to get them out of the house and away from his three young children.

AP

In this Jan. 15, 2010, file photo, Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas arrives at Superior Court in Washington.

Also, on the day after the confrontation, Arenas told a member of the Wizards' management that Crittenton wasn't even in the locker room when the guns were displayed, according to prosecutors. Minutes later, Arenas asked an unnamed teammate to forward a text message to Crittenton, Kavanaugh wrote. The message instructed Crittenton about what he should tell NBA officials.

"Ur new story. U were n the training rm when u got out there were 3 guns on ur chair with a note. That said pick one. Send that to javaris ill take all the Blame," Arenas wrote, according to prosecutors. "Ill come up with the story. But that all he needs to say. If we hav to talk to the nba office."

A spokeswoman for Arenas' lawyers declined to comment on the allegation. She said the defense would respond to the government's sentencing memorandum at Friday's hearing.

Prosecutors also cited Arenas' prior conviction for carrying a concealed weapon in California in 2003 and his joking antics in the wake of the incident. They said any claim by Arenas that he was ignorant of D.C. gun laws is false, citing a November 2009 team meeting on the subject.

As part of the plea deal with Arenas, the government said in January it would not seek more than six months in jail, although the judge can give Arenas anywhere from probation to the charge's maximum term of five years. The sentencing guidelines for someone with Arenas' record call for a sentence of six to 24 months, although the guidelines also allow for probation.

In Tuesday's filing, prosecutors also proposed that Arenas serve three years' probation and perform 300 hours of community service in addition to the three-month jail term.

A survey of similar cases over the last two years in the district indicate that about half of the defendants convicted of Arenas' crime receive some amount of jail time. Crittenton received a year of unsupervised probation after pleading guilty in January to a misdemeanor gun charge. He did not have a prior guns-related conviction.

Arenas' lawyers held nothing back in making the case for their client, filing a memorandum that runs 122 pages and includes numerous character-reference letters, with Arenas' father, Alana Beard of the WNBA's Washington Mystics and ESPN's Dave McMenamin among those offering their support. There are no letters from any of Arenas' current or former Wizards teammates, coaches or management.

Arenas has a reputation as a flamboyant showman and self-promoter, but his lawyers attempted to portray a different side with sections with titles such as "Kindness to Strangers" and "Mr. Arenas as a Role Model."

"He is a genuinely caring person, he has long devoted himself to serving the community and others, and despite a history of pranks and misguided practical jokes, he is a peaceful man who is not aggressive or confrontational in any way. ... He is the rare superstar athlete who shies away from the fast-lane lifestyle," the document says.

Arenas' lawyers said the player's confusion about D.C.'s gun laws—especially in the wake of a 2008 Supreme Court decision that forced D.C. to change its gun laws—should be considered a mitigating circumstance. They also pointed out that Arenas' guns were unloaded and that he is losing more than $7 million in salary from the NBA, which has suspended him without pay from the rest of the season. Arenas has also lost a sponsorship deal with Adidas, which his lawyers say will cost him at least $10 million and possibly more than $40 million, and a separate deal with Spalding, which has cost Arenas about $200,000.

The lawyers also wrote that Arenas' attempts at humor in the wake of the locker room incident—including lighthearted comments on Twitter and a pantomime in which Arenas pretended to shoot his teammates on the court before a game at Philadelphia—were "unwise" but shouldn't be interpreted as contradicting Arenas' statements of contrition.

"The whole world has watched as a man who brought four unloaded guns into the District of Columbia was required to accept a felony plea, suffer great personal and professional collateral consequences, register as a 'gun offender,' submit to court supervision, and face public scorn," the lawyers wrote. "This sad saga has sent a strong message to any and all who might consider bringing guns into the District."

Bobcats set win record, beat Wizards 95-86 in OT

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gerald Wallace had 17 points, 19 rebounds and got two opponents to foul out in overtime to help the Charlotte Bobcats set a club record for victories Tuesday night with a 95-86 win over the Washington Wizards.

The win was No. 36 of the season for Charlotte, one more than the previous high set last season, and moved the team a step closer to the first playoff berth in its history.

The loss moved the Wizards closer to a dubious bit of history. Washington has dropped 12 straight and will equal a club mark if it loses at Indiana on Wednesday. The Wizards haven't won since defeating lowly New Jersey 89-85 on Feb. 28.

Pacers 98, Pistons 83

At Auburn Hills, Danny Granger scored 32 points as the Indiana Pacers ended a nine-game road losing streak.

Detroit was officially eliminated from the playoff race with the loss, ending an eight-year streak of postseason appearances.

Brandon Rush scored 20 points for Indiana, while Troy Murphy added 10 points and 12 rebounds. Tayshaun Prince led the Pistons with 14.

The Pistons lost starting point guard Will Bynum in the first half with a back bruise, then coach John Kuester was ejected for arguing a call in the third quarter.

Knicks 109, Nuggets 104

At New York, Danilo Gallinari scored 17 of his 28 points during a spirited duel with Carmelo Anthony in the third quarter and Al Harrington added 23 points for the Knicks.

New York climbed out of an early 12-point deficit and took control late in the third period. David Lee finished with 12 points and 16 rebounds.

Anthony scored 36 points and Chauncey Billups had 25 for the Nuggets, who lost their second straight as they try to hold onto the No. 2 spot in the Western Conference playoffs. Their magic number for clinching a postseason spot remained at three.

The Nuggets had won the last four meetings—Anthony scored a career-high 50 in the last matchup—their longest winning streak ever against the Knicks. They seemed on their way to easily extending that run before the game changed after halftime.

Denver played its eighth game under Adrian Dantley since coach George Karl was diagnosed with throat cancer.

Mavericks 106, Clippers 96

At Dallas, Jason Kidd celebrated his 37th birthday by scoring a season-high 26 points, much of it coming during a game-breaking spurt at the start of the fourth quarter.

The Mavericks came in having lost three of four since winning 13 in a row. They looked good in the first half, scoring 62 points, and were in complete control until Dirk Nowitzki was ejected with 9:16 left in the third quarter for complaining about a foul call.

Dallas ended up scoring just 14 points in the third quarter, and was down by one going into the fourth.

Then Kidd took over.

He had 13 points, three assists and a steal during a 22-3 run that put the Mavericks ahead for good, on their way to equaling Denver for the second-best record in the Western Conference.

AP

Charlotte Bobcats forward Gerald Wallace (3) goes to the basket against Washington Wizards forward Andray Blatche (7) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 23, 2010, in Washington.

NFL changes overtime for playoff games

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Sudden death has gotten a little less sudden in the NFL playoffs.

The league on Tuesday changed its overtime rules for postseason games. Starting next season, if a team wins the coin toss and then kicks a field goal, the other team gets the ball. If that next series ends with another field goal, play will continue under the current sudden-death rules.

If the team winning the toss immediately scores a touchdown, however, the game is over.

Team owners voted 28-4 on Tuesday in favor of the proposal at the NFL meetings. Minnesota, Buffalo, Cincinnati and Baltimore opposed the change.

Passage was helped by commissioner Roger Goodell's support and by a spate of statistics indicating the coin toss had become too prominent in determining OT winners.

Minnesota lost last season's NFC championship game in overtime to New Orleans. The Saints won the toss, drove downfield and kicked a field goal to win.

"Modified sudden death is an opportunity to make a pretty good rule ... even better," said Atlanta Falcons president Rich McKay, co-chairman of the competition committee. "Statistically, it needed to change. It wasn't producing the 'fairest result.'"

Those statistics showed that since 1994, the team that won the overtime coin toss won the game on the first possession 34 percent of the time.

Overall, the team that correctly called the coin toss won overtime games nearly 60 percent of the time in the last 15 years, or since kickoffs were moved back 5 yards to the 30.

"Plenty of people on the committee, myself included, are so-called traditionalists," Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian said. "I am proud to be one. But once you saw the statistics, it became obvious we had to do something."

The new rule applies only to postseason games. But McKay said even that could change, and several owners expressed interest in further discussions at their May meetings in Dallas.

"There was a lot of sentiment in the room to change this rule for the regular season," McKay said, adding he doesn't expect that to happen this year. "Our thought is to take our time and study it a bit and make sure everyone understands the implications there would be for that."

AP

This Feb. 5, 2010, file photo shows NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell during a news conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

McKay and Polian said the Vikings-Saints game had little role in the vote to modify the rule.

"That's interesting," McKay said. "One of the teams that voted against was in the game and, last I checked, I don't think they won."

Vikings owner Zygi Wilf said Monday he was inclined to vote no.

"You need consistency of the regular season and the postseason," Wilf said.

But the overtime rules already are different. During the season, games end in ties after a 15-minute OT. In the playoffs, a winner must be determined.

McKay and Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher, the other competition committee co-chairman, said coaches quickly began favoring the change once they learned the details. It became such a hot issue that the owners' vote was taken one day earlier than expected.

One of those coaches, Marvin Lewis of the Bengals, is on the committee. Hours before his team voted no, Lewis expressed approval of the alteration.

"There's a lot of elements that come into play," Lewis said. "For all the proposals we've discussed, this is, I think, the most complete one."

McKay said it was critical in making the rule change that "no phase of the game" was "adversely affected."

The players' union has said it believes any change in overtime needs to be collectively bargained. Of course, the contract between the league and players expires next March. While the competition committee briefly discussed potential OT changes with the union in February, the NFLPA was not consulted this week.

Denver Broncos receiver Brandon Stokley doesn't like the rule change.

"I just think that they should keep it like it is," he said. "It makes things interesting. Some people don't like the coin toss, but that's just the way it goes. If you're on defense first and you don't have the ball, you've just got to stop them."

Request for Roethlisberger DNA *withdrawn in Ga.*

ATLANTA (AP)—Georgia investigators have withdrawn their request for a DNA sample from Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger who is accused of sexually assaulting a 20-year-old college student at a nightclub, an attorney for the player said Tuesday.

Ed Garland told The Associated Press that officials withdrew the request a week ago, but declined comment on why.

"It is clear that they are doing a careful, thorough and extensive investigation," said Garland, who hoped the investigation would wrap up within a month.

Police are looking into the claim that Roethlisberger sexually assaulted the woman early March 5 at the club in Milledgeville. Roethlisberger has not been charged, and Garland has disputed the claim and has hired his own team to investigate.

It's the second time in a year the two-time Super Bowl champion has been accused of sexual misconduct. This case comes as he faces a lawsuit filed in July by a woman who says he raped her in 2008 at a Lake Tahoe hotel and casino, an allegation he strongly denies. Roethlisberger has not been criminally charged in either case and has claimed counter-damages in the lawsuit.

ESPN first reported that GBI had withdrawn its DNA request.

GBI spokesman John Bankhead did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press.

Roethlisberger, who owns a home about 30 miles north of Milledgeville on Lake Oconee, was celebrating his 28th birthday with friends at the club and other spots around the college town.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said Monday he planned to meet with Roethlisberger about the star's off-field problems. The quarterback's legal team said they wouldn't object to the meeting.

Steelers President Art Rooney II has said the team is concerned and closely monitoring the Milledgeville situation.

Coach Mike Tomlin expressed his concern for his star quarterback Tuesday, characterizing him as a friend he talks to daily "about football, about personal life; that's the nature of our relationship."

"We've been pretty clear from (Steelers president) Art Rooney on down how we are approaching this," Tomlin added at NFL meetings in Orlando, Fla. "At this point, as the investigation runs its course, we'll have comments at the appropriate time."

W. Virginia PG Bryant out of NCAAs with broken foot

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)—West Virginia point guard Darryl "Truck" Bryant broke his right foot during practice Tuesday and will miss the rest of the NCAA tournament.

The second-seeded Mountaineers, who won the Big East tournament, play 11th-seeded Washington on Thursday night in Syracuse, N.Y., in the East Regional semifinals.

The school announced that the sophomore from New York fractured his fifth metatarsal.

"I feel sorry for Truck that this injury happened during this time of the season," coach Bob Huggins said.

Bryant has started 31 games and averages 9.3 points and is second on the team in assists (3.1) and 3-pointers (40).

He will likely be replaced in the starting lineup by junior Joe Mazzulla, who is more of a playmaker than a scorer. Mazzulla averages 2.2 points and 2.3 assists per game.

Mazzulla's last start came against Davidson on Dec. 9, 2008. He hurt his right shoulder in that game, missed the rest of the season and had surgery. His shoulder limited his shooting mobility for much of this season.

The Mountaineers have no other point guards on their roster but have used forwards Da'Sean Butler and Devin Ebanks in stretches at the position. Earlier this season, West Virginia used an all-forward starting lineup in four straight games, going 3-1.

Washington is led by point guard Isaiah Thomas, who is averaging 17.1 points and 3.1 assists.

Reyes cleared to resume baseball activities

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP)—New York Mets shortstop Jose Reyes has been cleared to resume baseball activities after doctors determined his thyroid levels have returned to normal.

Reyes was diagnosed in early March with a hyperactive thyroid, and doctors prescribed rest and a change in diet. He was told to refrain from physical activity and was monitored and tested weekly in New York.

After missing most of last season with a hamstring injury, Reyes was pulled from stretching before what would have been his spring training debut March 5 when team doctors decided the abnormal results from his physical warranted further testing. He is expected to return to Mets camp Wednesday.

"It's a good sign for us today, and hopefully it will be a good sign for the rest of the year," Mets general manager Omar Minaya said Tuesday. "Today is a good day."

Reyes appeared in just 36 games last season because of the hamstring injury. His only game action since last May was an intrasquad scrimmage just before the start of exhibition play.

Manager Jerry Manuel originally had said Reyes likely would need 10 games in spring training to be ready for the start of the season. But Minaya said Tuesday he did not want to speculate about when Reyes will be ready to play in a game or whether he could be ready for Opening Day.

"We still have two weeks, so let's see how things go," Minaya said. "We are not going to say he is not going to be ready, but let's see when he comes out here how he gets himself prepared. The good thing is he came to camp in excellent shape.

"He is excited about being here; we are excited about him being here. But as far as Opening Day goes, we don't know."

Minaya said Reyes will resume full workouts Wednesday, even though his exercise regimen the last two weeks was limited to walking on a treadmill.

Aqua, World Resort thwart foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

World Resort/Advance gained a share of the solo lead in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball after pulling off a close win against McGraw-Hill, 73-70, on Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

The three-point victory was World Resort's seventh in eight matches, putting the team in a tie for the top spot with defending champion Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

Julius Tabamo canned a fastbreak layup and made the bonus shot to foil McGraw-Hill's bid for an upset.

McGraw-Hill had a chance to win the match when it had the possession in the closing seconds. Peter Mendiola was on top of the key and could have powered his way inside the paint. However, he opted for a pass and with McGraw-Hill and World Resort wearing the same uniform color, Mendiola got confused and his feed went to the wrong hands.

Tabamo caught Mendiola's pass and the former sprinted to their frontcourt for a layup and a foul against the latter. Tabamo completed the three-point play to secure the win for World Resort.

In the first match, Aqua Resort Club also eked out a hard-earned win against Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo, 95-88.

Aqua Resort trailed in the first three quarters before Jesse Mina anchored the team's recovery in the fourth period. Mina scored 13 of his 28 points in the fourth period, turning a 63-69 deficit in the third quarter to a seven-point win.

Aqua Resort now holds a 6-2 record for solo second place in the 15-team league. SGH/Docomo remained winless in six games.

Aqua 95 – Mina 28, Gapor 17, Aquino 12, Lizama 11, Joahnes 8, Mc. Achas 8, Torres 6, Mi. Achas 4, J. Acosto 1.

SGH/Docomo 88 – Sablan 30, Villacrusis 25, Sison 13, Alvarez 12, Bustillo 8.

Scoring by quarters: 15-15, 36-48, 63-69, 97-88.

TEAM

From Page 28

program for the team and produced several successes, as the Americans won the Gold Cup in 2007 and made it to the finals of the 2009 Confederation Cup before losing to five-time World Cup champion Brazil, 2-3.

The United States Soccer Federation hopes the Americans' four-year preparation will be enough to silence the team's critics and to prove that the U.S. strikers belong in the big game.

Acid test vs England

What a way to start the Americans' World Cup bid by facing England, the eighth-ranked team in FIFA rankings, 14th time-World Cup participant, and 1966 World Cup champion.

The 18th-ranked U.S. will meet England on June 12, then the 27th-ranked Slovenia on June 18, and finally 32nd-ranked Algeria on June 23. The four countries are in Group C and only the Top 2 finishers in the bracket will advance to the second round.

Bradley, in the transcript of an interview posted at the U.S. soccer website, said they landed in a fair group.

"It's a fair group, one that gives us an opportunity to do things the right way and find a way to advance. The opportunity to play England is really very exciting. Opening the World Cup with that type of game, a game I think will just bring on tremendous interest in the United States, will be special for our fans," Bradley said.

The Americans and the Brits met nine times before with England each time having the U.S.' number, 7-2. England has scored 35 goals against the eight of the U.S. The last time the two teams met was on May 28, 2008 at Wembley Stadium with England notching a 2-0 win.

Key players

Former CNMI Women's National Team member Brenda Schultz picked several players who she believes will play key roles in the Americans' campaign in the 2010 World Cup.

"The U.S. has been really lucky to have had great goalkeepers over the years. I am a huge fan of Tim Howard and expect he will be the starting goalkeeper, although I would love to see Kasey Keller in there too, especially since so many people think he is too old. Clint Dempsey is the field player to watch for these matches. He is a playmaker, creative, and can finish. There is also Landon Donovan who is quick and threatening in either the midfield or the front. He can also set up a play or finish. DaMarcus Beasley has always been a fun player for me to watch. In my opinion he is often overlooked. He plays wing and can quickly turn a ball from defense to offense. He is really light on his feet and seems to know right where to pass," Schultz said.

CNMI striker Dale Roberts shared Schulz view on Donovan and Howard.

"Midfielder Landon Donovan is the face of U.S. soccer. He began to fade a couple of years ago, but has recommitted himself and is expected to make a large contribution for the U.S. in the World Cup," Roberts said. "Howard plays in the English Premier League and is certainly the most accomplished keeper on the U.S. squad."

Other players to watch Roberts added are fullback Carlos Bocanegra, Jay Demerit, Michale Bradley, Jozy Altadore, and Frankie Hejdu.

"Defender Jay Demerit is working his way back from an injury and is rounding into form as the team prepares for South Africa. Striker DaMarcus Beasley is coming back from a serious knee injury, but appears to be coming back into form enough to make an impact in the World Cup. Carlos Bocanegra plays in France and is a threat to score even as a defender," Roberts said.

The U.S. has a pool of 61 players, with more than 20 of them playing in European leagues and the rest in MLS. In May, Bob Bradley is expected to name 23 on its World Cup roster.

Chances: Long shot

In a soccer website gauging teams chances in the 2010 World Cup, the U.S. is a 66 to 1 long shot to lift the Cup. Spain is the top favorite, followed by Brazil, England, and then Argentina.

Roberts said the best chance of the Americans is to finish second in Group C and if they did, the team will face an even tougher task.

"Their chances to win their group are slim. England outclasses everyone in the group, which is why they are the top seed. It would be a huge disappointment if the U.S. did not finish Group C in second place. The other teams in the group, Algeria and Slovenia, are very beatable, but the U.S. has to win both matches and avoid a draw with either team. Sloppy play could result in a draw and would place their chances of moving into the knockout stage to the uncertainty of tie-breakers," Roberts said.

"A second place finish in their group would most likely see them face Germany in the knock out phase of the tournament, which does not bode well for them. Germany is a multiple winner of the World Cup and it would most likely be the biggest upset of the entire tournament if the U.S. will beat them," he added.

Roberts explained though the Americans are a long shot in this year's World Cup, the U.S. chances in 2014 will be better.

"They play well as a team and they are young. Their best years are still ahead of them and talk is that they might very well make a strong run in the 2014 World Cup. For now, unfortunately, they are a team of 'soldiers' and lack 'magicians.' Teams like Brazil, Italy, Portugal, Germany, and Spain are chock full of magicians, making them perpetual finalists. The U.S. is mostly role players without any clear 'special' talents," Roberts said.

EX-OLYMPIAN

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Famers Bill and Jean Sakovich said choosing the right school is crucial too.

"Make a research and see which school has a strong program for your chosen sport. In choosing the school, it is best to pick the one that will give you exposure. You can be in a very prestigious school, but if you will just sit on the bench and watch your teammates, it's better to be in a not so popular school. The important thing is for you to excel by getting the needed exposure and training," Sakovich added.

When turned down, student-athletes and their parents, too, must not let disappointment stop them from looking for other opportunities.

"If big schools turn you down, look for junior or community colleges in the mainland. They are good breeding grounds, as after two or three years when you improved a lot you can transfer to bigger schools," Sakovich said.

The South Pacific Games medalist admitted it will be hard for athletes in the Pacific to earn athletic scholarships in the mainland, so islanders must really sell themselves to get noticed.

"Tell them where you are from and be proud of it because even though our facilities here are a far cry from theirs, you still have excellent skills which if not superior are at par to that of athletes training in excellent facilities," Sakovich said.

Saipan Swim Club's Lisa Kimball, her son Andrew, daughter Grace, and husband Dan, were among those who attended the affair at AMP and were grateful for Sakovich's insights.

"It was especially helpful to Saipan athletes since most of our sports are not school based, but club based—swimming, tennis, soccer—so the schools might not be focusing on the athletic aspect of college scholarships, but more on the academic aspect. He also pointed out that there is a specific formula that needs to be followed in order to be qualified for an athletic scholarship. It's good to know about that so we, as coaches, can help prepare our athletes for college," Kimball said.

GARDNER

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which are part of the Saipan Sports Fest. The male and female triathletes with the best combined times for XTERRA and Tagaman get to win the PIC Double. They also win a round-trip ticket to the two triathlon events and a seven-night accommodation at the Pacific Islands Club.

"Winning PIC Double makes it easier and cheaper for us to return to Saipan for XTERRA and Tagaman and we are grateful to PIC for their generosity," said Gardner, who won the PIC Double against Canada's Mike Canada with a slim margin.

Gardner timed in at 2:34:03 in XTERRA Saipan against Vine's 2:34:46. Vine had problems with his bike during the off-road race, losing precious seconds to Gardner. In Tagaman, Vine was ahead of Gardner after the swim leg, but the latter grabbed the lead in the bike leg to finish with a time of 2:59:23. Vine tallied 3:00:10 to settle for second place in the PIC Double, as he submitted a total time of 5:34:56 against Gardner's 5:33:26.

In the women's division, Bucher posted 3:24:36 and finished only third in Tagaman behind Korea's Dan Bi Hong (3:20:47) and the U.S.' Shonny Vanlandingham (3:23:53), but still secured the PIC Double due to a wide winning-margin against the American pro in XTERRA.

"I was not feeling well going into the Tagaman race, but still I tried by best to finish the race because I know it was important to do so I can still comeback to one of my favorite triathlon events. It feels great to win again the PIC Double," Bucher said.

The Swiss triathlete logged 2:58:19 in XTERRA against Vanlandingham's 3:06:20. For the two events, Bucher totaled 6:22:55, while Vanlandingham recorded 6:30:13.

Nineteen triathletes survived the off-and on-road races on Saipan this month, earning them recognition during the Tagaman banquet last Saturday at PIC. Finishers of the two races each received a PIC Double shirt awarded by PIC general manager Kieran Daly.

Completing the PIC Double finishers were United Kingdom's Michael Hiscott, Emma Ruth Smith, and Darrelle Parker, Saipan's Mieko Carey, Butch Sublemente, Tyce Mister, Joshua Manglona, Lewie Tenorio, Dawn Hammermeister, John Douglas, Manny Sitchon, Brad Ruszala, and Mark Sawyer, and Australia's Allan Collinson.

RAUL

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two games to come away with a norm of 184.75.

Gigi Zapanta came in third in the Queen of the Lanes with her 687 pinfall total (171.75) built around games of 208, 141, 193, and 145.

Omechalang also got a gift certificate from AOI Restaurant and $70, while Cal and Zapanta pocketed $40 and $25, respectively.

On Sunday, McKenzie reigned supreme in the youth division when he knocked down 674 pins. The January winner rolled a four-game series of 173, 134, 216, and 151, which was good for a 168.5 average.

M.J. Aldan and last month's champion, Zach Cruz, settled for runner-up honors with their pinfall totals of 629 (157.25 average) and 567 (141.75), respectively. The Top 3 in the Prince/Princess of the Lanes got prize money of $15, $10, and $5.

The King, Queen, and Prince/Princess of the Lanes is sponsored by MARPAC and organized by the Saipan Bowling Association. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	25	.643	—
Toronto	35	34	.507	9 1/2
New York	26	45	.366	19 1/2
Philadelphia	24	47	.338	21 1/2
New Jersey	7	63	.100	38

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	50	21	.704	—
Atlanta	45	25	.643	4 1/2
Miami	37	34	.521	13
Charlotte	36	34	.514	13 1/2
Washington	21	48	.304	28

Central Division

y-Cleveland	56	15	.789	—
Milwaukee	39	30	.565	16
Chicago	33	37	.471	22 1/2
Indiana	25	46	.352	31
Detroit	23	48	.324	33

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	47	24	.662	—
San Antonio	42	27	.609	4
Memphis	38	33	.535	9
Houston	36	33	.522	10
New Orleans	34	38	.472	13 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	47	24	.662	—
Utah	46	25	.648	1
Oklahoma City	42	27	.609	4
Portland	42	29	.592	5
Minnesota	14	57	.197	33

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	52	18	.743	—
Phoenix	45	26	.634	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	26	45	.366	26 1/2
Sacramento	24	47	.338	28 1/2
Golden State	19	51	.271	33

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Charlotte 95, Washington 86, OT
Indiana 98, Detroit 83
New York 109, Denver 104
Dallas 106, L.A. Clippers 96

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

MBI	7	1
World Resort	7	1
Aqua Resort	6	2
Pacific Islands Club	5	2
Fiesta Resort	5	3
Shirley's	4	3
AON/NJ Plus	4	3
Mobil	4	3
TBK	4	3
McGraw-Hill	2	4
Pepsi	2	4
Bank of Guam	2	4
Docomo/SGH	0	6
Hard Rock	0	6
Cell Pro	0	7

Run Leg of 2010 Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

United Kingdom's Michael Hiscott gets cups of water from Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan volunteers.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, and Ben Babauta make their way to Beach Road.

Arland Macasieb crosses the finish line in style.

Renata Bucher, left, looks down on the barefoot Chang Wang Jang.

Sam Gardner cruises along the pathway in Beach Road en route to a first place finish in Tagaman.

Korea's Ka-On Cho uses a sponge to douse water to his face during the sweltering run leg of the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday.

Won Jeong Choi, right, trails Shonny Vanlandingham in the run leg along Beach Road.

Paul Viator makes his turn at the AMP compound.

Mieko Carey smiles as she crosses the finish line.

Mike Vine cuts the tape for a second-place finish.

Prosecutors ask for 3-month sentence for Arenas

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

77 days to go — SOUTH AFRICA 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

Team USA out to get respect

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Midfielder Landon Donovan is the face of U.S. soccer and is expected to lead perennial underdog Team USA in the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

Editor's note: The Saipan Tribune *will be featuring the 32 teams that advanced to the 2010 FIFA World Cup set from June 11 to July 11 in South Africa.*

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

From critics to believers.

That's how the U.S. men's national soccer team hopes to turn its detractors come the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa this June.

The U.S. is one of the 32 nations that qualified for the biggest sports event this year, joining the company of football giant Brazil, FIFA top-ranked Spain, defending champion Italy, and perennial favorite England.

The Americans will play in the 19th edition of the quadrennial event after a disappointing performance in 2006 in Germany. The U.S. lost to Czech Republic, 0-3, and the lowly regarded and World Cup first-time qualifier Ghana, 1-2, drawing criticism back home and prompting the appointment of Bob Bradley as interim coach, replacing Bruce Arena.

Since his appointment as interim coach in December 2006, Bradley started building a strong

See TEAM on Page 26

Ex-Olympian shares secrets to securing athletic scholarship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Remember the scene in the movie "The Blind Side," where copies of a video of offensive tackle Michael Oher pushing an opponent off the football field were sent out to collegiate coaches and scouts?

The next day, Oher's guardian Leigh Anne Tuohy, played by Oscar best actress Sandra Bullock, was peppered with calls, showing interest in having the burly offensive tackle on their team. Oher eventually played for the University of Mississippi and earned a scholarship at Ole Miss and was then drafted by the Baltimore Ravens in the 2009 NFL Draft.

Olympian swimmer Jon Sakovich said sending videos of a student-athlete's performance in whatever sport he is excelling on is one of the many ways to get the attention of collegiate coaches/scouts and eventually earning their nods enough to get a scholarship and be on the team.

"It helps that through these videos, coaches have the idea of how you perform, whether it is in swimming, basketball, or tennis," said Sakovich, who earned a swimming scholarship from the University of Florida and is now coaching Bolles High School swimming team in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Saipan-raised Sakovich met with a group of students and parents at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater to share tips on how students can get athletic scholarships in college.

"However, don't send videos to too many schools. Just choose which school you really like," the 1988 Seoul Olympics veteran told participants.

The son of CNMI Hall of

See EX-OLYMPIAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jon Sakovich stresses a point during a lecture at the AMP Amphitheater on Tuesday night.

Gardner, Bucher keep PIC Double title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pros Sam Gardner and Renata Bucher earned return trips to next year's Saipan Sports Fest after winning anew the PIC Double.

PIC Double is a contest for triathletes participating in both the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon,

See GARDNER on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
PIC Double finishers pose with Pacific Islands Club general manager Kieran Daly, center, during the awards banquet for the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday.

Raul, Gloria top March roll-off; Marion wins anew

Raul Dumapit and Gloria Omechalang won their first Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes championships of the year, while Marion McKenzie captured his second Fiji Prince of the Lanes at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai early this week.

Dumapit

Omechalang

McKenzie

Dumapit fired a four-game series of 929 last Sunday to top the March men's tournament. He had a rollercoaster campaign, opening with a pedestrian 179 before sandwiching a 194 in the third game with identical 278s in the second and fourth games.

He finished with an impressive average of 232.25 pinfalls per game.

Robert Talavera and Raymond Zapanta tried their best to beat Dumapit's score but could only muster scores of 876 and 844, respectively.

Dumapit's win earned him $90 and a gift certificate from AOI Restaurant, while Talavera and Zapanta took home $60 and $30.

Omechalang, for her part, nipped Ron Cal by a single pin, 740-739. The former fired a four-game series of 177, 163, 235, and 165 to finish with a 185-pinfall average, while the latter started strong with rolls of 214 and 191 before fading with scores of 179 and 155 in the last

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